

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

WHAT MAY BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW.

No noteworthy ecclesiastical fact having turned up during the past week, we avail ourselves of the opportunity thereby brought within our reach of reverting to the subject of the legislative scheme of disestablishment, already matured and soon to be forthcoming, of the Liberation Society. We do so the more gladly, because in the observations made by us a fortnight ago we found ourselves wanting in space to enter upon one view of the matter which has always appeared to our mind one of serious importance. We think it may be taken for granted, in accordance with the ordinary laws by which the human mind is governed, that whenever, or under whatever circumstances, a definite plan shall be put forth for giving a practical embodiment to the principle of Establishment, the immediate effect of it will be to bring into a focus the great variety of objections which may be urged against it, and thereby to lessen for the time being the popularity of the movement. It will not be as though a scheme had been propounded to the nation which Her Majesty's Government had announced their intention to press through Parliament. It will not, of course, come upon the people with the momentum which on this supposition it would unquestionably carry with it. In the latter case, the first impulse of those who accept the principle of disestablishment would be to suppress any but the gravest difference of opinion between anticipation and fact, lest the realisation of the main object should be endangered by adverse criticism. Here, it would be said, official authority has offered to us a fair chance of attaining the ultimate object which we have in view. Some of the details of that offer are such as appear to us open to serious objections. But, inasmuch as they do not contravene the principle for which we are contending, and are in fact advanced with a view to forward it, we abstain from taking hostile note of them lest the main point at issue should be imperilled by our means. But no such apprehension will occur in reference to any scheme recommended for adoption by the Liberation Society. It may, or it may not, be the best that could be devised. It may satisfy the demands of justice without losing sight of the claims of generosity. It may bear upon the face of it a scrupulous regard for the interests of the public, and, at the same

time, may deal honourably, not to say tenderly, with all individual and private claims. But it will be looked at, not from a single point of view, as it would be if it carried upon its surface the stamp of Government authority, but from every conceivable point which the differing preconceptions that a multitude of observers will be sure to suggest. And as nothing apparently will be lost as the result of keen criticism, it may be assumed that, as a first consequence of submitting the scheme to the public, the differences it will elicit will be far more numerous than the agreements it will establish.

The supporters of the Liberation Society should be prepared for this. It ought not to provoke their surprise. It need not excite their alarm. If it should somewhat thin their ranks for the time being there is no necessity for jumping to a conclusion that a mistake has been made in the direction of the movement. Vagueness of profession must at some time or other be succeeded by definite proposals, and at definite proposals hosts of objectors will be tempted to aim their several shafts. We do not entertain the suspicion that many who avowedly belong to our ranks will declare their intention thenceforth to walk no longer with us. But it is quite possible, we may even say probable, that the broad belt of sympathisers with us in the general principle will be visibly narrowed; for it is one thing to indicate a desire that a certain thing may be done, and quite another thing to agree in the mode in which it is proposed to perform it. Here, we will not say the half-hearted disciples of a disestablishment policy, but the uncommitted will probably declare their purpose of standing aloof from us for the future, if not of opposing us. Many of them, in the nature of things, have not seriously thought out the several practical problems which the policy involves. Some of them will be startled by conclusions to which they are pointed by "the inexorable logic of facts." Time must be given to them to ruminate over the details presented, to familiarise themselves with ideas novel to their minds, to look this way and that, with a view to discover the necessity or non-necessity of proposals to which they may take *prima facie* strong exceptions. Meanwhile, it is our hope that thorough discussion will tend to bring back into the ranks of loyal supporters many who may have wavered in their convictions, and, in due time, to restore them to the relation in which they stood to the organisation—with this difference only, that they will have a clear and precise conception of all that is practically included in the policy of disestablishment.

Another consequence to be anticipated from the publication of the society's scheme will probably more than compensate for the loss which will be sustained from the causes to which we have already adverted. There are notoriously large numbers of working men who, fully accepting the general principle of disestablishment, take but little interest in it, simply because they have not seen as yet any definite scheme for embodying it in law. To them the general project presents itself as a rosy mist and nothing more—very captivating when looked at from a distance, but very likely, if pursued, to turn out a glittering illusion. They look back upon the provisions of the Irish Church Act with no little disappointment. They remember that what was taken with one hand was to

an immense extent given back with the other. They regard the legislation of that period as little better than a dexterous manoeuvre for transferring to an irresponsible Church body the bulk of those endowments which had been previously held in fee by the State. They have no desire to repeat that experiment. They fancy it may be attempted in England and Wales upon a much larger scale, and that the chief effect of disestablishment will be to hand over an immense amount of annual revenue from a political to an ecclesiastical authority. When once they became acquainted with proposals calculated to dissipate their misapprehensions they will, doubtless, take a livelier interest in the settlement of the question. There can be no two opinions as to the fact that an honest and true solution of the problem would contribute largely to their indirect benefit as a class. They have waited to ascertain what are the main provisions of any measure which it is sought to press upon the Legislature in reference to this question. Household suffrage and the ballot (in the boroughs at least) will arm them with power to give expression to their opinions. The day, we are confident, is not very far distant when they will rally to the flag which will be unfolded to the nation. Fuller knowledge will infuse more energy into their will. A conviction that what is aimed at is really a national and not a sectarian policy will quicken their motives; and as they have already placed disestablishment among the items of their political programme, so it is to be reasonably expected, that when they are fully enlightened as to what the principle means, and as to the actual changes which the promoters of it intend, they will gladly lend their powerful assistance in getting it inscribed upon the Statute Book.

THE DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS ENDOWMENT BILL.

THE more Lord Sandon's Education Bill is studied, the less it is liked. Our own strictures last week appeared to contrast somewhat ungraciously with the conditional approbation expressed by more than one professedly Liberal organ. But seven days have made considerable difference in public feeling. The proposed measure now stands condemned by the *Guardian* on the one hand and by the *Spectator* on the other. It is repudiated by the National Education League and denounced by the Nonconformist Committee meeting at Crewe. And, what is very noteworthy, it has roused the *Watchman* to an outspoken invective, which culminates in a despairing cry for Dr. Rigg—of all people in the world—to come back across the Atlantic, and repress the insolence of denominationalism. Indeed, the Free Churches must have strangely degenerated since the days of Sir James Graham's bill, if they are not stirred to indignant opposition of a proposal, which simply makes a stalking-horse of national education for the purpose of enlarging the unjust privileges of sectarian schools and the powers of the rural clergy.

To justify this view we need only refer to Section 13, providing for an enlarged scale of the Parliamentary grant in certain districts, and to the various clauses prescribing the method of compulsion direct or indirect in the absence of school boards. It will be remembered that the Act of 1870 for the purpose of encouraging public spirit, not sectarian zeal, in districts of low rateable value, gave a conditional guarantee against exorbitant rates. Thus, if threepence in the pound fails to produce 20s. or 7s. 6d. per child in actual average attendance

at the board school, the Education Department is empowered to overstep the usual limits in the amount of grant, so as to make the rates up to either of the above amounts. Proceeding, we presume, on this precedent, but distorting it to utterly different ends, Lord Sandon would enact that in every locality, whether in town or country, where a threepenny rate would, if it had been laid, fail to produce a sum equivalent to one shilling per head of the whole population, men, women, and children, each public elementary school, whether a board school or not, whether Protestant or Catholic, whether Ritualistic, Evangelical, or Unitarian, shall be allowed to earn grants equal to two-thirds of its whole expenditure. This is the plain English of a clause which veils in roundabout language one of the most astounding proposals ever made to Parliament.

The convenient variety of methods by which such a "special district" may be defined is open to infinite manipulation. In the country it must be a "school district," the limits of which depend very largely on the pleasure of a department at present most amiably disposed towards squirearchy and hierarchy alike. In a borough it may be "any area defined to be a special division by a resolution of the council of the borough, approved by the Local Government Board and the Education Department." In London it may be any union, or any separate parish. Really, it looks very feasible on such a system to throw two-thirds of the expenses of education in all poor neighbourhoods whatever upon public taxation, without any guarantee for the rights of local public opinion. For only observe the wide sweep of the financial conditions of such a privilege. It is open to every "special division" in which "a rate of threepence in the pound . . . would produce less than six shillings per head of one-sixth part of the population." Of course one-sixth part of the population represents the proportion for whom, *pace* Canon Gregory, school accommodation ought to be provided. But it would have been much clearer and more straightforward to say one shilling per head of the whole population. Now a rate of threepence in the pound, producing one shilling per head of the whole population implies an average rental of £4, not only for every man and every woman, but for every boy and girl, and every baby in arms. No doubt this would be very low for those localities in which "gigmanity," as Carlyle calls it, loves to dwell. But it is not at all low,—on the contrary, it is far above the average of a very large number of districts, where school boards are now in operation. We are glad to see that Mr. Forster is moving for a return of the number of districts which would be affected by this scheme. It will probably surprise both Parliament and the public. But meanwhile we can contribute one or two facts. According to a Parliamentary return on the subject of school board expenditure dated May, 1875, the population of the borough of Hackney is, or was, 362,427, and its rateable value £1,282,440. If our readers will kindly do a simple sum they will find that the number of shillings produced by a threepenny rate in Hackney is 320,610. That is, Hackney does not raise by a threepenny rate "six shillings per head of one-sixth part of the population." And though the whole of Hackney would not be able to claim the privilege of a two-thirds grant yet its parishes of Bethnal-green and Shoreditch certainly would. Again, the population of the Tower Hamlets is stated as 391,568, and its rateable value as £1,517,064. Another simple sum will show that the number of shillings produced here by a threepenny rate is 379,266. So that the Tower Hamlets, or at any rate several of the component parishes would come under the rule. And mark what the rule means; it means that in all those East-end parishes every voluntary school is to be made independent of voluntary subscriptions, and the whole of the sum thus provided is to be thrown in the form of imperial taxation on the whole body of the ratepayers.

We have never raised, we have never joined in the hollow cry of a false economy where national education is concerned. But the principle of municipal management seems to us an essential safeguard against the centralisation that is more injurious in regard to education than in regard to any other national interest. And it would scarcely be consistent with our usual practice to express in adequate language the scorn we feel for the mixture of peddling meanness and insatiate selfishness which enables the sectarian party at one moment to howl for economy and at the next to grab at the national purse-strings. The *Guardian*, with a sort of stately incapacity, real or affected, to understand the necessity for resort to wily strategy, laments that the Government has not boldly proposed the Canadian system of allowing every man to

apportion his rates to the school he prefers. But this audacious scheme, veiled in the innocent garb of charity, will sweep thousands of pounds into denominational schools where the Canadian system would bring in hundreds. In a word, if this 13th section is allowed to pass as it stands, it will be the most damning proof yet given that the Conservative reaction has smitten the back bone of the Liberal party with paralysis.

Space fails us now to refer to the second aspect of this ill-omened measure alluded to above; we mean its aggrandisement of the power of the clergy. But we have not done with the subject yet. Meantime we affirm that this bill, if passed into law, will give power to clerical guardians to persecute Nonconformist labourers with a refinement of torture suitable to the culture of the times. Rather than send his child to a Ritualistic school, it is quite possible that a sturdy villager may "continuously and habitually neglect to provide such elementary instruction for his child as will enable the child to obtain a certificate under this Act." But the clerical guardian may also be a clerical magistrate. In the latter capacity he may make a peremptory order that the child shall attend the obnoxious school. It is nonsense to point to any provisions which affect to preserve the parent's right of choice. It is simply Hobson's choice; for there is no other school available. And Lord Sandon has openly declared that under such circumstances compulsion appeared to him perfectly reasonable. But if the father still refuses, what happens then? Why, according to Section 8, the court may order the child to be sent to a certified industrial school. Comment is needless. Or, if it is required, we will add it in another article.

CLERICAL FELLOWSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITIES.

The following important memorial has been addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury, as Chancellor of the University of Oxford:—

"We, the undersigned resident graduates, thank your lordship for the introduction of amendments into the Oxford University Bill which give effect to some of the views most strongly entertained by resident members of the University, and expressed by the colleges in their petitions to Parliament and their representations to your lordship.

"We desire, however, most respectfully to urge upon your lordship, and upon Her Majesty's Government, that the interests of the University would be further promoted, if, after making reasonable provision for religious worship and instruction in the colleges, all clerical restrictions upon college emoluments were removed."

The names of 110 members of the University are attached. They belong to twenty-one colleges, and among them are Professor Jowett, the Rev. G. G. Bradley, Master of University College, W. C. Sidgwick, Thorold Rogers, Professors Odling, Price, Holland, Lawson, H. J. S. Smith, and Clifton, with numerous tutors and lecturers.

"DISESTABLISHMENT" DISCUSSION AT STAFFORD.

(From the *Birmingham Daily News*.)

A discussion of the essential points involved in the question of "Disestablishment" took place at Stafford on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the present week. The disputants were, on the part of the Liberation Society, the Rev. J. McDougall, and for the Church Defence, the Rev. T. T. Berger. Mr. Alderman Gibson was chairman for the advocates of disestablishment, and Mr. Blakiston (clerk of the peace and town clerk) for the Church party; and Mr. Mazzinghi (Salt librarian) was umpire. The discussion took place in the Rowley-street School, admission being by tickets, 600 of which were equally distributed among Churchmen and Dissenters. Scarcely the full number attended, and those who did were in equal proportions, a side of the room being appropriated to each party.

The debate on Monday, on the question "Is Church Property National Property?" was opened by Mr. Berger. The gist of his contention was that what was commonly called Church property was held by its ministers, each of whom was a corporation sole, and whose title to his living was as good as that of a private gentleman to his estate. He asserted that the Church was not a penny richer, but rather the poorer, as a result of its connection with the State, and that it was really independent of the State. Mr. McDougall, on the other hand, argued that the inability of the Church to deal with its own internal affairs, except under the sanction of Parliament, proved its subservience to the State, as a condition of which the emoluments of the former had been in the main originated and continued. The Church had, in fact, no property of its own; none that it could sell or dispose of, or deal with in any way, and was consequently not a corporation. This proved that the Church revenues were really national revenues.

"Are the clergy directly or indirectly paid by the State?" was the subject for discussion on Tues-

day. Mr. McDougall, after referring to the precedent of the disestablishment of the Irish Church, quoted the creation of the sees of Manchester and Ripon as evidences of the purely political character of the Church Establishment; those bishoprics having been founded, not by the Church as a Church, but by Parliament. The dealing with so-called Church property was not an innovation of to-day; the late Lord Derby had reduced the temporalities of the Church in Ireland 25 per cent. It was said by Church defenders that tithes were originally free-will offerings—he said when they ceased to be the offerings of free will the Church ought not to have taken them. As to the gift of property to the Church, it was evident that the Church, being a creature of the State, the endowment was legally the property of the nation, to be devoted to the Church as long as the nation thought fit. Now, as to the tithe, the Church could not create it. It had not now, and never had any such power. The power to create, to amend, or to abolish was clearly vested in the State, as proved by the Tithe Commutation Act. As to the perpetual right of the Church to its revenues, the Act of Supremacy settled that question. Did the enactments of Henry VIII.'s time deal with the revenues and emoluments of the Church as if they were to be the property of the Church for ever? That monarch, as well as Elizabeth, Mary, Edward VI., Oliver Cromwell, and King Charles, had all, by means of their Parliaments, done what they pleased with the Church. Besides this, what was the meaning of the abject condition of a Church which had to go to a Parliament composed of men of all shades of religious opinions, or of no opinions at all, for power and authority to deal with matters that were purely ecclesiastical? Mr. Berger contended that endowments, the gifts of pious founders, formed the basis of the property of the Church; and if a nobleman wished to benefit the Christian religion by settling a tithe of the annual value of his land upon the Church, could he not do so? Mr. McDougall had admitted that the tithes were voluntary in their origin, and being so, the Church was only indebted to the State for securing its property in the same way as it secured the property of every person in the State, by legislative enactment. If by an organisation the State, or some of its agencies, was the ostensible paymaster, that did not prove that it really was the money-finder; the paymaster was really the man who found the cash. As to the power of the State to deal with the English Church as it had done with the Church in Ireland, he did not deny it. It had the power, but he denied the right. He disputed the statement that the see of Manchester was State-founded, the money for its endowment having simply accrued through the increased value of Church property. The assumption that the tithe charge on land was a hardship was fallacious. The charge being secured upon it, if it was afterwards sold it would be bought with the full knowledge the tithe had to be paid, and if the buyer of the land afterwards endeavoured to evade his liability he ought to be made to know better. Mr. McDougall, in reply, said that the Church had been dealt with by Parliament in no less than 2,724 Acts, and Mr. Berger reminded his opponents that Dissenters had profited by the liberality of past Parliaments, having had extensive grants of money out of the *Regium Donum*.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Berger opened the question, "Would the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England be for the good or harm of the nation at large?" He quoted Mr. Spurgeon to prove that voluntarism was a failure in poor neighbourhoods, and how, he asked, could the religious needs of the poor be met if the Church was swept away, seeing that Dissent was unequal to the work? Returns proved a large decrease in the number of chapels, and in Liverpool alone seven Dissenting chapels had been converted into churches or Church of England schools, while some had become workshops and playhouses. Mr. Alexander McLaren the leading Dissenting minister of Manchester, had admitted the inability of Nonconformity to overtake the spiritual necessities of the country, and the *Wesleyan Magazine* said if the church were overthrown a large proportion of the population would be left destitute of the ordinary services of religion. And what about a bulwark against Romanism? The *Westminster Gazette*, a Roman Catholic organ, said that if ever the Roman Catholic religion was to be predominant in England it must be over the ruins of the Church of England. Mr. McDougall said the Church had been established and endowed with the expectation that it would do a certain work. It had not done that work. Neither was it a church of faithful men, but rather a political institution. So far from answering the ends and aims of a Christian Church, were not the law courts appealed to constantly by its clergy to settle such ridiculous questions as dress, postures, and the burning of candles and incense. This was not a result of any action on the part of Dissenters, but was the outcome of disunion among its own members. In its religious aspects the effect was most disastrous. Christianity should be a pure and holy thing—free from and above the law and mercenary considerations which fettered the Church of England. The connection of the Church with the State was ruinous to Christian life and the spread of Christian love and charity, establishing as it did a disunion of sentiment and a separation of Christian effort. That such results were the consequence of the Establishment there could be no doubt, and apart from the question of bare justice

to Nonconformists, were of themselves sufficient to prove that the existence of a State-Church was a harm to the nation.

At the conclusion of the debates votes of thanks were cordially given to the gentlemen who had officiated as umpire and chairmen, and to the disputants. The surplus proceeds of the meetings go to the County Infirmary.

A correspondent at Birmingham, who was present at the discussion, writes as follows:—"The proceedings throughout were characterised by the utmost good order on the part of the audience, which, from the first to the last, appeared to take great interest in the question discussed. An incident deserving of record took place at the close of the debate. The vicar of the parish in which the debating room is situated, rose, and in the most honourable manner and Christian terms, spoke of the personal satisfaction he had experienced at the kindly spirit manifested and the fraternal terms used by Mr. MacDougall towards the Episcopal Church. It was remarked that the Wesleyans who were present were not the least interested persons, several fully endorsing the sentiments of the Liberation champion with much heartiness. The friends and supporters of the Liberation movement have every reason to be fully satisfied with their cause and its able and eloquent advocate."

THE NEXT LIBERATION CAMPAIGN.—We are glad to be able to announce that arrangements have been made for the commencement of another season's work, by the holding of two conferences in Wales. The first of these will be in South Wales, and will be held at Swansea, on Thursday, the 21st of September: the second will be in North Wales, at Carnarvon, on Tuesday, the 26th of September. And it will, we have no doubt, afford much gratification to the society's friends in the Principality to learn that Messrs. Dale and Rogers have consented to address the public meetings which are to be held in connection with the conferences. These meetings will be very opportune, inasmuch as the supporters of the Establishment have of late assumed rather a bold attitude in Wales, and "Church Defence" meetings are being held, as though the claims of the Establishment on the affections and loyalty of the population were incontestable.—*Liberator*.

THE CHURCH OF THE COVENANTERS.

(From the Manchester Examiner.)

The chief business in the Scotch Free Church Assembly on Thursday was the consummation of the union with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, otherwise known as "The Old Covenanting Church of Scotland." By ten o'clock the Assembly Hall was crowded in every part, and many hundreds were unable to obtain admission. After the disposal of some preliminary business, the clerks of assembly—namely, Sir Henry Moncreiff and Dr. Wilson, of Dundee—were instructed at half-past twelve o'clock to proceed to the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, then sitting, and state that the Free Church Assembly were ready to complete the act of union. At one o'clock the members of the synod arrived at the door of the Assembly Hall. The assembly and a crowded audience rose at their entrance. Amid the most impressive silence the ministers and elders representing the church of Cameron and Renwick defiled one by one down the passage to the seats in front of the moderator's chair, which had been specially reserved for them. Sir Henry Moncreiff proceeded to read, in the name of both churches, the act of union. This was a long document, and the reading of it occupied nearly a quarter of an hour. When Sir Henry Moncreiff had finished the reading and proposing of the act of union, the Rev. Dr. Goold, of Edinburgh, the moderator of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod, rose from one of the seats in front of the moderator's chair, where he had been sitting with his brethren, to second it. No sooner had Dr. Goold risen than a scene of extraordinary enthusiasm took place. Those who have been familiar with ecclesiastical assemblages for many years pronounce it unexampled. Covenanting memories seemed to have revived in their fullest force and vigour. The immense assemblage was thrilled. The entire house rose as one man, whose pent-up feelings could be restrained no longer, and actual "hurrahs" rang in loud and successive shouts from all quarters. Grave ministers and elders waved their hats, the ladies in the galleries their fans and handkerchiefs; while the students' gallery echoed with cheers such as only University men can give. In one word, the reception given to Dr. Goold can only be described as an ovation. In a few brief sentences (for he was to speak more fully afterwards), he seconded the Act of Union. Part of the 68th Psalm, in the Scotch metrical version, was then sung—

O God, what time Thou didst go forth
Before Thy people's face;
And when through the great wilderness
Thy glorious marching was.

Thereafter the Rev. Dr. Moody Stuart offered prayer. The moderator then addressed the assembly for about half-an-hour on the union that had taken place, dwelling on the traditions of the Covenanters and the noble work they had done in their days, spite of all the persecutions and sufferings they had endured. The right chord was struck in the address, and it was impossible, as the Moderator was recalling the days of Claverhouse and his dragoons, to forget how, not many yards from

where he was speaking, some of the noblest of the covenanting host of Scotland had ascended the gibbet and bowed their heads upon the block in the Old Grassmarket, while numbers more had found a grave in the adjoining Greyfriars' Churchyard. Dr. Goold followed the moderator in an address of nearly an hour, in the course of which he stated that the attempt had been made, through money bribes, to seduce the Reformed Presbyterians from entering into this alliance with the Free Church, but that the overtures had been rejected with scorn. It is scarcely necessary to add that this announcement was received with tumultuous cheers, and that the allusion was to the Established Church of Scotland, which during the past year has been successful in drawing away one or two pliable ministers from the church. Such enthusiasm recalled the early days of the disruption; and it was specially noticeable that Dr. Begg and the old anti-union party were among the loudest in their demonstrations of delight. The number of the ministers and elders of the Reformed Presbyterian Church received into the Free Church by union on Thursday and present in the assembly was seventy-two. It is next to being the universal feeling that there will be another Presbyterian union in Scotland by-and-bye, now that the tide of union has fairly set in. In the evening, in the course of the proceedings, Principal Rainy read a telegram on the subject of that day's union he had received during the afternoon from Mr. Samuel Stitt, of Liverpool, chairman of a conference sitting in that town making arrangements for the approaching union of the churches in England, on June 13.

Judgment in the Folkestone Ritual case is postponed to November.

The consideration of the Oxford University Bill in the House of Commons will not come on until after the Whitsuntide holidays.

The Rev. H. M. Barnett, formerly an English clergyman, and lately the minister of a Free Church at Southampton, has joined the Baptists.

SUBMISSION OF FATHER O'KEEFE.—An arrangement has been made by Father O'Keefe with his bishop and cardinal, under which he gives up all claims to his parish and abandons all proceedings against them. He has made an ample apology, in return for which, it is stated, he is to get an annuity.

THE OWSTON FERRY SUIT.—The costs in this suit were 1,600*l.*, and not 16,000*l.*, as erroneously stated. The *Watchman* says:—This amount has not by any means been subscribed, and we trust that further and liberal contributions will be speedily made.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—The *Globe* states that the Irish Church Commissioners have resolved to wind up their business speedily by putting up to sale by public auction the church property remaining in their custody, the tenants of which have declined the offer of pre-emption made to them under the Church Act. The first of these public auctions will take place on the 19th of June. The property in this case is the residue of the estate of the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and will be sold in fifty-five lots.

CREWKERNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SCHEME.—Mr. Richard, M.P., has given notice that on the 13th of June he will move, "That an humble address be presented to Her Majesty, praying Her Majesty that she will be graciously pleased to withhold her assent from schemes for the management of Crewkerne Grammar School, Owsley Exhibitions, Hoskyn and Wynford Exhibitions, and school exhibitions in the county of Somerset."

CHURCH AND STATE IN ITALY.—A telegram from Rome says, "Signor Mancini, the Minister of Grace and Justice, has authorised the Vestry of Paludano, in the diocese of Mantua, to consign the temporalities to Don Orioli, who has been elected pastor by the people, and who has satisfactorily discharged the duties for two years, during which time he has subsisted on a Government grant of 800 lire and the private munificence of Count Guerrieri Gonzaga. The vestry is further authorised, after satisfying Don Orioli's claims, to apply the residue of the temporalities to education and the general good of the parishioners. The Clericals are indignant."

A PENALTY OF NONCONFORMITY.—Great indignation has been occasioned at Cambridge in consequence of Mr. Allen, the new head master of Perse Grammar School, in the above-named city, having dismissed Mr. Frederick Charles Maxwell, M.A., St. John's College, who has been assistant master for nearly six years, alleging, as a sole reason, that Mr. Maxwell is a Nonconformist. He is a Wesleyan, and was therefore placed in a position of social inferiority. At the same time, as a testimony of Mr. Maxwell's efficiency, the majority of the governing body of this professedly non-sectarian school condemn the head master's phrases, but confirm the dismissal.

THE ST. ALBAN'S BISHOPRIC.—Winchester House, the proceeds of the sale of which are to go to a fund to endow the proposed bishopric of St. Alban's, was on Friday put up to auction by Messrs. Driver at the Mart. The highest bidding was 50,000*l.*, and the property was declared "bought in." It is stated Dr. Claughton, the Bishop of Rochester has elected to take the bishopric of St. Alban's, as he is entitled to do under the Act of Parliament, as soon as it is formally constituted, and thus the diocese of Rochester will become vacant. There seems to be little doubt that the new bishop will be Dr. Edward Bickersteth, Dean

of Lichfield, and Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation of the Province of Canterbury.

"CHURCH RATES" IN LONDON.—Mr. W. E. Fielding, 9A, Findlater's-corner, London Bridge S.E., writes to the *Daily News*:—"It may not be known generally that Church-rates can be still levied in the metropolis. My goods, viz., an oak writing-table and a time-piece, were yesterday, Friday, the 26th inst., seized by the churchwardens of St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, owing to my objection to pay, upon principle, the sum of 15*s.* 7*d.*, an illegal order being made on the 18th inst. by a justice of the peace at a court held in the church itself to hear summonses and to show cause why payment should not be made. I was able to show that more than six months had elapsed since the first demand was made on me for payment, but the justice decided against the law that pay I should in three days' time. He would neither allow the collector to be cross-examined, nor would he hear me, or my witness, though both of us offered to be sworn as to the facts of the case. Surely ecclesiastical oppression still exists in this enlightened age, and I think the public should know of it. St. Saviour's has a special Act, reign of Charles II."

HIGH CHURCHMEN AND DISSENTERS.—If any of our readers desire to see the sort of spirit which High Churchmen manifest towards Dissenters, they should read an article in the current number of the *Church Quarterly Review*, entitled, "School and Lending Library Literature." For example, there is the following passage:—

Nothing that actually leads up to Dissent, or tends to confound the idea of a distinct dogmatic faith, ought on any account to be admitted, though absolute direct enumeration of our own principles is by no means necessary, provided the morality be sound.

The Religious Tract Society having published works which dwell more upon the necessity for conversion in any way than upon its coming through the properly ordained channels, is made the subject of a word of caution:—

The Religious Tract Society has an excellent collection, not only of tales, but of books of natural history and travel; and those who are collecting prizes or lending library books ought certainly to make a selection among these, though if they are ordered without examination we may chance to light on something that exalts conversion at the expense of sacramental grace, or which makes it a hopeful sign in a Romanist to die without the sacrament.

And as a further specimen of the supercilious manner in which the writer of the article can speak of the teaching of his Dissenting brothers—a manner in which he no doubt finds many sympathisers—we find him saying:—

Wherever there is a stirring of real active religion, it finds food and support, and is not left to struggle in the dark, or seek supplies of light from the self-kindled sparks of Dissent.

Comment is unnecessary.—*Inquirer*.

THE PROTESTANT EVANGELICAL SCHOOL.—As our readers are already aware, Mr. Gladstone has an article in the June number of the *Contemporary Review* on the "Courses of Religious Thought," or, as he says, "the principal currents of thought concerning religion"; and he proposes, in a future paper, to discuss "how and why these present currents have been put into their present sharp and unordered motion." He says the channels in which they mainly run are five, which are briefly:—1. Ultramontanism. 2. Liberal Catholicism, and the historical school. 3. The Evangelical school. 4. The Theistic school. 5. The negative school. We may have another opportunity of referring to Mr. Gladstone's paper, but may meanwhile quote a passage coming under the third head:—"The pure and simple name Protestant is largely and loosely used even by men who, themselves believing nothing, nevertheless want countenance for their ends among those who believe something. The Protestant evangelical school comprehends all who, rejecting the Papal monarchy, either reject or at least do not accept the doctrine of a Catholic Church visible and historical, but are disposed rather to rely on the simple contact of the individual mind with the Divine Word. While they adhere to nearly all the great affirmations of the Church, they believe strongly, if not scientifically, in revelation, inspiration, prophecy, in the dispensation of God, manifested in the flesh in an atoning sacrifice for the sin of the world, in a converting and sanctifying spirit; in short they accept with fulness, in parts with crude exaggeration, what are termed the doctrines of grace. It is evident we have here the very heart of the great Christian tradition, even if that heart be not encased in the well-knit skeleton of a dogmatic and ecclesiastical system. We have here a true incorporation of Christian belief to a large extent in life and character. This scheme has framed large communities, has formed Christian nations, and has sustained an experience of generations of men; it is eminently unspoken, and tells of its own weakness as freely as of its victories or merits. It rallies scores of millions to its standard; and while it entirely harmonises with the movement of modern civilisation, it exhibits its zeal in the supreme work of uniting the human soul to Christ. This religious school may in the United Kingdom claim nearly the entire body of Presbyterians and Nonconformists. Moreover, that section of the Church of England which is termed the Evangelical or Low Church, not very large, but still active and zealous, seems in great measure to belong to it. Of the English-speaking population in the United States and the British colonies, which may be roughly taken at fifty millions, it may perhaps claim as many as thirty for its own; nor does any

portion of the entire group of religious system seem to be endowed with greater vigour than this, which has grown up in new soil, and far from the possibility of the chilling shadow of national establishments of religion. On its popular and working side, in its pastoral and missionary energy, in the almost unrestrained freedom of its movements, the group is strong. Nor need it suffer greatly from the reproach of severances in outward communion, when it is considered that the particular forms of religious organisation are in its view matters of comparative indifference. Its weakness is on the side of thought. It not only denounces as desertion from the truth the abandonment of the doctrine of the divinity of Christ, but, likewise, in some of its sections, it interpolates new essentials of its own, such as personal assurance, particular election, final perseverance, and peculiar conceptions."

Religious and Denominational News.

THE FRIENDS' "YEARLY MEETING," 1876. (From a Correspondent.)

The "Yearly Meeting" of the Society of Friends commenced its session on Wednesday, the 24th inst., in Bishopsgate Without, London. The attendance was good, and included, amongst other well-known members, the veteran statesman, Mr. John Bright. The chairman for the session is Mr. George S. Gibson, of Saffron Walden, who discharges his arduous duties with a combination of promptitude, courtesy, and tact, forming an excellent example for presiders over large assemblies.

At the commencement of the proceedings much correspondence was read from the American and Irish Quaker bodies in communion with the English Society. Then followed a series of returns and replies relative to the religious condition and home mission labours of Friends in Great Britain. From these it appeared that a remarkable amount of activity in the direction of Sabbath-schools, temperance efforts, mothers' meetings, town missions, and free Gospel addresses, characterises the members of the society in many parts of the country; especially in the counties of Durham and York, and in the three cities of London, Birmingham, and Bristol. But, notwithstanding such evangelistic labours, the society barely maintains its ground numerically. Last year the total increase of its members in Great Britain was only forty-nine, and this year only fifty-one, on a total of about 14,300.

A number of speakers expressed their surprise, and even bewilderment, that in spite of the renewed zeal of the society, it continues to fail in so marked a manner in making converts. But it was well observed by Mr. John F. Wilkey, of Exeter, Mr. Joseph J. Dymond, of Bradford, and other speakers, that though the body is not a proselytising one, yet it is eminently successful in diffusing its principles indirectly amongst other denominations. For it is owing, in great degree, to the steadfast Quaker testimonies, as to the priesthood of all believers, and the immediate accessibility of every soul to Christ, through the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, that, amongst the world in general, broader and more liberal views on individual responsibility and Christian independence are widely diffused and entertained. Mr. Henry Hipley (of Holloway), whilst also acknowledging this extensive indirect success of Quaker influence, feared that Quakerism, in its turn, was in danger of being partially influenced by surrounding scepticism and rationalism—especially through the popular theological literature of the day. He hoped the society would tenaciously hold to two great principles—a reliance on the saving efficacy of the precious blood of Christ, and an obedient submission to the authority of the Holy Scriptures in their entirety. One speaker contrasted the slight increase of the society with the large accessions to the Wesleyan body, and even to single Congregationalist or Baptist churches, such as Mr. Spurgeon's. In reply, Mr. William Tallack, of London, said the growth or strength of a religious denomination was by no means necessarily measured by its numbers. The important facts of spiritual health and fidelity to God could not be gauged by mere statistics. Large accessions to membership might easily be secured by a low standard and relaxed conditions of admission, and might even indicate retrogression instead of advance. Whereas a congruence progress in the higher objects of the existence of a church might be thankfully recognised, and a large amount of good done amongst outlying multitudes, with little or no numerical accession to formal membership in the society. And he believed such was actually the case with the Friends.

A report was received as to the condition of the ministers and elders of the society, which gave occasion to several speakers to express desires that the religious life of ministers or other members might not be impeded or ruined by their becoming so absorbed in the pursuit of riches as to be overcharged by the snares or the anxieties of this transitory life. Exhortation was given to the effect that whilst the Lord commands His people to be "not slothful in business," they are also required to be, beyond everything else, "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." A venerable Friend urged that this service of God should be the great test of every object and engagement of life. Is it promoting the cause of God? Several other speakers said that religion if genuine must be manifest by action and by genuine proofs of reality, as witnessed in Christians' every-day transactions in the shop,

the mart, or the exchange. Mr. Francis Frith (the artist), rejoiced at the progress of the "higher Christian life" teaching of modern times, as a revival of an ancient Quaker testimony to the truth that salvation by Christ does not consist alone in an "imputed" righteousness. For without imparted holiness, as distinguished from mere imputation, there cannot be genuine discipleship, or real faith in Christ.

At the commencement of one of the sittings a fine address, noble in its dignity and in its elevated feeling, was delivered by Mr. J. Bevan Braithwaite (barrister, of Lincoln's-inn), who, by a general tacit consent, has exercised a sort of primacy in the Society of Friends since the decease of the veteran leaders, Josiah Forster and John Hodgkin. Mr. Braithwaite evidently feels a deep sense of the great responsibility which this informal, yet by no means imaginary, episcopacy, devolves upon him, and, in the address on this occasion (of which another speaker afterwards remarked that not one word could have been spared), in earnest and eloquent language he delivered a virtual "charge" to his assembled friends. He set before them their solemn responsibilities both as a society and as individuals. He said that they must not regard themselves as merely occupying an isolated and irresponsible position, either in the Church or in the world. For they have duties both to those who preceded them and to those who follow them, and also to those around them. They owe it to the saintly lives and to the arduous labours of their forefathers and predecessors that the great truths they enunciated, and sometimes even died to defend, be faithfully maintained and transmitted to the coming generations. Nor should modifications in the expression and exemplification of ancient truths be made without the greatest care and consideration. Claims to Christian liberty are often heard of and set up in these days. And indeed liberty is a precious Christian heritage; but its real meaning and claims must be earnestly guarded. The true liberty of the children of God everywhere consists only with their submission to the guidance of the Spirit of God. And this liberty cannot be defined or guaranteed by mere verbal definitions and formal creeds. We can only secure liberty for ourselves and others by living and walking in God's way and according to His Gospel. The speaker went on to say that he increasingly felt that the true foundation of the society's health and prosperity as a Church must consist in its allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ, in His humanity and in His deity, in His propitiatory sacrifice, and in His abiding presence by His Spirit in each heart and with each worshipping congregation. It must be Jesus Christ, the foundation stone—from first to last. Turning to the subject of the comparison of present with former Quakerism, Mr. Braithwaite said he had in his possession a series of letters written by one of his ancestors, a hundred years ago, describing a number of visits made at that time amongst the principal families of Friends in the metropolis. The state of spiritual dullness, flatness, and deadness which these letters depict is very different indeed from the condition of the London Friends in 1876, when, amid many shortcomings doubtless, there is yet to be witnessed, Sabbath after Sabbath and week-day after week-day, a very cheering amount of evangelistic effort and other varied religious service, especially on the part of many of the younger members of the society. For this great change for the better reverent thankfulness is due to the Lord.

A number of other interesting addresses followed. The sittings of the yearly meeting are being continued through this week.

The Rev. W. Field, M.A. (London Univ.) of Duxford, and Classical Master at Bishop Stortford Grammar School, has received and accepted the appointment of Head Master over the Northern Congregational School, Silcoates, near Wakefield. Mr. Field obtained his M.A. in Branches I. and III., having previously taken honours at the various examinations for the B.A. degree, and is highly recommended. He enters on his new work in August next, and the official announcement of his appointment will be made at the annual meeting on June 20.

MARKET HARBOUROUGH.—Reopening services were held in the Congregational Chapel, Market Harborough, on Sunday, May 7, when the pastor, the Rev. W. E. Morris, preached special sermons. The chapel had been closed for two months, for the purpose of being put in thorough repair, painting and decorating the interior, &c. The entire cost amounted to over 200*l*. Collections and promises at the close of the services realised about 80*l*., which made up the total sum required, 120*l*. having been previously contributed by the congregation.

RAINHILL.—The Rev. Arthur Tidman Gill, of the Lancashire Independent College, was recognised as pastor of the Congregational Church at Rainhill, near Liverpool, on the 2nd inst. After the devotional services, which were conducted by the Rev. E. Hassan, of Wavertree, an exposition of Congregational principles was given by the Rev. S. Pearson, M.A., of Liverpool. The pastor-elect then made a statement of his views and purposes in reference to the ministry, and the prayer was offered by his father, the Rev. George Gill, of Burnley. The charge to the minister was given by the Rev. Professor Scott, of Lancashire College. The Revs. J. Wishart, M.A., R. J. Ward, A. Holborn, M.A., T. Keyworth, T. Hodgkinson, and R. H. Noble, with several of the students from the college, were present on this interesting occasion.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—The Rev. Henry Irving, late of New College, London, was on Tuesday, May 2, publicly recognised as the pastor of the Snow-hill Congregational Church in this town. At the morning service, after prayer by the Rev. W. Parker Irving, B.Sc., of Bedford, and reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. W. J. Woods, B.A., of Leamington, a statement was made from the church, by Mr. Alderman Jones, followed by a statement by the pastor. The Rev. Dr. Newth, Principal of New College, then offered the prayer, and the Rev. Dr. Stoughton delivered the charge to the pastor. Luncheon was provided after the service for visitors and friends. At the evening service Mr. R. W. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham, delivered the charge to the church and congregation. The following gentlemen also took part in the proceedings:—Revs. T. G. Horton, G. B. Mellor, and E. Franks; Messrs. S. S. Mander, — Lester, and B. Jones, all of Wolverhampton, the Rev. Robert Ann, of Handsworth, and the Rev. Norman Glass, of Bilston.

LOWER CLAPTON.—A social meeting of the church and congregation at Lower Clapton was held in the schoolroom on the 15th inst., on the occasion of the Rev. F. Soden entering upon the twenty-first year of his pastorate in connection with this church. The meeting was presided over by the pastor, who reviewed the work of the church for the past twenty years, stating that during that period between seven and eight hundred members had been gathered into the fellowship of the church, 400 of whom now remained on the books. Besides liquidating the debt which rested on the old sanctuary in Pembury-grove, they had expended on the present pile of buildings about 18,000*l*., and which as now completed would bear favourable comparison with any other in the Congregational body in London. In the course of the evening Mr. E. Newell, senior deacon, presented the Rev. F. Soden, in the name of the church and congregation, with a handsome gold watch and a purse of 300*l*., as a slight token of the esteem they entertained towards him. Congratulatory addresses were afterwards delivered by the Revs. Dr. Aveling, P. Strutt, J. B. French, and others.

Anniversary Meetings.

WOMEN'S PEACE AND ARBITRATION AUXILIARY.

On Friday evening a conversazione was held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, to celebrate the second anniversary of the above society. Refreshments were served in the library, which was tastefully decorated with flowers and appropriate mottoes from Scripture. The chair was occupied by A. J. Mundella, Esq., M.P. for Sheffield, who was supported by Mr. H. Richard, M.P., Professors Leone Levi and Sheldon, Revs. J. H. Wilson, G. W. McCree, and other gentlemen. The majority of the assemblage were ladies.

The proceedings commenced with singing a hymn, the reading of a portion of Scripture by the Rev. G. W. McCree, and prayer by Rev. J. H. Wilson. The chairman then called upon

Mrs. E. M. SOUTHEY, the honorary secretary, to read the report, which referred to the proceedings at the last anniversary, and gave a summary of what had been done by the members during the last year. Several tracts and leaflets had been published and distributed; Band of Hope classes had been addressed, and other meetings held. A public proposal having been made to train rescued boys in various homes and refuges for naval as well as mercantile service, a deputation waited upon Mr. John Macgregor and Dr. Barnardo, with reference to the subject. The latter expressed himself in entire sympathy with the object of the society. The London School Board committee had been memorialised on the subject of military drill, as opposed to ordinary class drill or gymnastics in the schools. The North London branch had been incorporated with the central body through the resignation of Miss Ridley, who was unable to continue to act as hon. secretary. The prize of 5*l*. offered by Mr. Ridley for the best essay by a girl between the ages of fifteen and twenty, on "The causes of the cessation of wars between the different parts of the now United Kingdom," had been awarded to Miss E. L. Kemp, of the North London Collegiate School. Sixty-eight ladies had joined the society, which now numbered 249 members. The report concluded with an earnest appeal to the members to press forward in the advocacy of arbitration, by which the controversies of nations would be settled, not by violence, but by the eternal principle of justice.

The CHAIRMAN said he had come there through the persuasion of his honoured friend Mr. Richard. Since the death of Richard Cobden, he knew of no living man who had done so much to promote the cause of peace on earth as Henry Richard. (Cheers.) Ever since he thought on these subjects he had advocated peace and, for twenty years, arbitration between employer and employed, and on great international questions. He was reminded by some bonnets he saw before him of some excellent work done in the town in which he was an employer, twenty years ago, by Eliza Burritt and some ladies, and he knew how much good they had done by their quiet influence. The lessons which they learnt at their mothers' knees were long and well remembered when the teaching of others was forgotten. Women were to a large extent the creators of public opinion. Happily, from the

insular position of this country, they knew very little of the realities of war and all its horrors. It was impossible, without seeing it, as it was to be seen on the battle-fields, to understand the misery, crime, and injustice of war. The two great curses of modern civilisation were war and drink, but he was glad to know that efforts were being made to abate the last of these evils, and they were encouraged to think that they would in time get rid of the great evil of war. They had had one grand illustration of progress in the Alabama arbitration of which he was always proud and should always boast. (Cheers.) Look at war as compared with arbitration. The Chairman then referred to his personal observations in 1870 when war broke out between France and Germany. He stayed a month near the theatre of war, and was near Gravelotte when the first train of wounded soldiers was brought in, and anything more dreadful it was impossible to witness. Men whom he had seen a few days before in bright array, returned with not only their uniforms torn and disfigured, but themselves also, many to bleed and die, and hundreds crippled for life. As he went through the hospitals and saw the mutual courtesies, he thought what an evil thing it was that through some misunderstanding which might have been settled in half-an-hour by peaceful conference, two great nations should be tearing one another to pieces. In Strasburg last year he had seen German soldiers walking in the streets, and Frenchmen refusing to walk by the side of them, and anything worse than the feeling between the French and Germans in Alsace and Lorraine it was impossible to imagine. That was the result of the war, and both countries were oppressed with an amount of taxation which was bearing them down, and with feelings of hatred and revenge which it would take years to get rid of. After returning from Germany and France he went to America, and was with Mr. Thomas Hughes when he had the courage to plead for arbitration on the Alabama business. A nobler sight he never witnessed. Longfellow, Sumner, Lowell, and a number of the best authors and most accomplished men were there to listen to that manly address of his countryman, pleading that they should have a better understanding with one another, and refer their quarrels to an international tribunal. The late Mr. Stewart was an old friend of his, and he was not only a merchant, but a man of large heart and views, and he wrote to him saying, "Try all you can to get the question settled. There is a war-party in America, and if they can only create war between the two nations it will answer their purpose, and God only can know the result." He placed his letters before Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville, and they were good enough to let him know that the Queen's Speech would afford him satisfaction on that point, and a glorious satisfaction it was. (Cheers.) They did not fight, but arbitrated and paid some three millions, and they were now constantly reproached for that in the House of Commons, and it was said they had humiliated the country. None could deny that there was a wrong, and the only thing was they might have paid a million too much. But what did that amount to? The first rumour of war would have cost a hundred millions of money in depreciation of securities, to say nothing of the fearful moral consequences which must have ensued. But instead of the bad feeling which would have existed, they saw to-day the *Times* correspondent at Philadelphia rejoicing in the fact that English exhibitors occupied the largest space in that exhibition. If the English-speaking people were only true to themselves they might pacify the world. In contrast to that picture look at the dreadful state of Europe in consequence of her great armaments. It was not the mere expenditure or the mere subtraction of useful labour, but the moral results of the military system which must be considered. The barrack life of the soldiers was a vicious and costly system, and everyone must do what he could to minimise and abolish it if possible. Women not only trained their youth, but wrote and spoke in a way better than men could; they appealed to the emotions and kindness of men. If good Christian women would associate together for such a purpose they would render a service to truth and religion, and confer a blessing on society. He hoped that association would extend its influence, and that women would do something to promote peace in the social wars going on around them. He cordially wished them every success in their object, and that their numbers might be quadrupled before their next annual meeting. (Cheers.)

Mr. Richard said that letters apologising for non-attendance had been received from the Rev. Dr. Moffat, who was suffering from cold, Mr. Samuel Bowly, Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P. (who was a true friend to the cause of peace) the Rev. A. Hannay, Professor Seeley, Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., and others.

Mr. THOS. BLAKE, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, said that war had cost England seven hundred and seventy-five millions, for the national debt was entirely a war debt. Seven hundred millions of that debt were added during the reign of George III., and the interest upon it was twenty-seven millions, which meant about 50*l.* a minute, or 3,000*l.* for every hour of the day and night! The cost of the army and navy for the past year was about twenty-six millions, and that added another 3,000*l.* a day to war expenses, from which they derived but very little good, and which produced a large amount of harm. The new 81-ton gun cost about 150,000*l.*, and every time it was discharged it cost 25*l.* for

one charge. The authorities seemed to him perfectly wild about those guns and ships. They made a big ship and then a big gun which would pierce it, and it was a battle between ships and guns. But the money was after all the smallest part of the cost of war. Its horrors could only be realised by those who had been on battle fields and knew the evils which followed. Yet there were some of their legislators who would put in force the law of conscription in this country. After referring to the superiority of arbitration to war in the settlement of international disputes, the speaker said it was to be regretted that one-third of the House of Commons was composed of persons connected with the military profession. He hoped the association would have a still more cheering report next year. (Cheers.)

Mrs. SHELDON AMOS seconded the resolution, and referring to the recent deputation to the Education Department on the subject of training boys for the navy, suggested that the friends of peace should also seek to influence the mothers and also the supporters of the schools, whom they should ask not to subscribe unless the boys were brought up in a Christian way. She was afraid they could not do much with the higher classes, but they could go to the poorer women and tradesmen's wives, and talk to them about peace. And then they might get them together and give them some facts to think about. Mothers were interested in all that concerned their children. She objected to military toys for children, and did not see why their pleasure should be associated with such things, and recommended they should do all they could to restrain the fighting spirit in boys. Few people realised the lifelong misery and drudgery which came upon women through war. A lady had recently remarked on the change which had taken place in men who returned from the war and had become brutalised. In conclusion the speaker remarked on the abuse of the word glory, and deprecated the admiration often given to military men whose talents were used in war.

Mr. HAYWOOD (Liverpool) supported the resolution, and said if the ladies of England would only come to the front, a great advance would be made on that question. They had done good work in Sunday-schools, in hospitals, and in the temperance cause, and would be equally successful in the cause of peace. Let them show the power of gentleness, and that it could be applied in social life.

The resolution was adopted and a hymn sung, after which—

The CHAIRMAN remarked that he was not a man of peace at any price. They held an Indian Empire, and until they had taught the natives how to govern themselves, they could not get rid of the law of force. His hope of peace arose from the fact that the English-speaking people occupied a wonderful geographical position in the world. In America, in the colonies, and in Asia they were spreading, and as they were trained in the principles of the Bible, he hoped they might gradually bring the world into better shape. They wanted the ladies to help to form a healthy public opinion on those questions. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. RICHARD, M.P., moved:—

That this meeting deeply deplores the prevalence of the spirit of war in Europe, but is thankful to find that so many of the friends of peace are earnestly endeavouring to promote the great principles of universal brotherhood, and while gratefully acknowledging the Divine goodness, as seen in the blessing bestowed on the work of this society during the past year, would earnestly appeal for more personal consecration in support of the great object it has been established to promote.

It was, he said, a great satisfaction and pleasure to him to see Mr. Mundella occupying the chair. He had been a great promoter of peace for twenty-five years, and had done great service in the settlement of trade disputes by arbitration. He was also his second in the motion he made in the House of Commons respecting arbitration, and he hoped he would support him in the motion he purposed making next session for an address to the Queen, praying that she would communicate with other Powers, or favourably receive communications from other Powers, in favour of a mutual and simultaneous reduction of European armaments. The ladies who had embarked in that enterprise were aware by that time that they had need of great faith, courage, and patience, for the work was full of difficulty. One lady had adopted the excellent plan of writing to a number of ladies of distinction to endeavour to enlist their sympathies in the cause. She had been partly successful, but had met with some discouragement. She had sent the replies to him to answer, and he intended doing so. Some objected to associations, and thought good could only be done by individual effort. Some objected that arbitration would not settle all disputes between nations. With regard to the first objection, in his judgment Solomon had settled it when he said, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour: for if one fall, the other will lift up his fellow." He had no doubt some young ladies present were of the same opinion. (Laughter.) Mr. Richard then read some verses he had composed thirty years ago on sowing and reaping.

Mr. JOHN GILL seconded the resolution.

Professor LEONI LEVI said they had met together for two distinct objects, to promote peace in all its branches, and to extinguish war as a barbarous mode of settling disputes. They were impelled by the dictates of duty and pure morals, and a desire for economy and usefulness. To his mind, after a candid inquiry as to the Will of God as revealed

in both the Old and New Testaments, he believed it was absolutely in the direction that all war was unlawful. And considering the circumstances attending war at the time, and all its after consequences, they could come to no other conclusion than that it was opposed to moral and subversive of them. They were thankful that something had been achieved during the last fifty years, and that they were advancing to the recognition of better principles. (Cheers.)

Professor AMOS said it would be well to make it known that no test was required from persons joining that society; they only wished all Christian people to weigh more fully the evils of war. The war spirit was an extremely unnatural thing, and like the old private wars, duelling, and cruel sports, it would collapse some day. Nothing but public opinion could accomplish that, and everything that was done to paint the horrors of war would hasten that time. He thought their efforts were of great value in preventing the army and navy taking greater consistency by holding up the idea that war was not lasting. War was spoken of in a thoughtless way, it was always getting out of range of their imagination, but it was a blot upon the civilisation of the race, being opposed to all law. (Cheers.)

A hymn was then sung, and the meeting separated.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.

The thirty-eighth annual meeting of this society was held at the London Tavern on Thursday night. Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, M.P., occupied the chair.

Mr. F. W. CHESSON read the annual report, which stated that experience showed that wherever our fellow-subjects were brought into contact with the weaker races, there the vigilance and humane interference of the society were imperatively called for in order to mitigate the harshness of the contact. In discussing South African affairs attention was called to proposals which had been made in Natal for the enforcement of the principle of compulsory labour against the Kafirs; and already the Amatongas, who hitherto had freely come into the colony to dispose of their labour, were compelled on the border to specify the master they intended to serve, or were forcibly allotted to one by the Government. The committee laid down the principle that no man should suffer civil or political disabilities on account of his colour or his race, and if in order to induce the Dutch Republics of South Africa to enter into a union with the British Colonies, this principle were modified or abandoned, they would regard confederation as a calamity. The report then proceeded at length to deal with the society's efforts to ameliorate the condition of the coolie labourers, to prevent the transfer of the Gambia to France, to enforce the suppression of kidnapping in the Pacific, and generally to protect and advance the interests of aboriginal races.

The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. S. GURNEY, and seconded by Sir C. WINGFIELD, who expressed his strong conviction of the necessity of such a society as this, but for which we should never have known of the ill-treatment of the coolies in the Mauritius and other colonies to which they had been brought, and he took the opportunity of expressing his satisfaction at the way in which Mr. Pope Hennessy, the Governor of Barbadoes, had restored order in that island without the effusion of blood, and whose conduct afforded a gratifying contrast to that of Governor Eyre in Jamaica.

The Rev. H. PAHTAHQUALONG CHASE, Chief of the Ojibbeway, spoke in support of the resolution. He was dressed in English clerical fashion, and spoke English with perfect fluency. He said he was here to see what civilisation and Christianity had effected for this country. He had been here six months, and seen a great deal and heard a great deal. He had lived peaceably from his youth up. For sixteen years he was in the Civil Service. He there saw his duty more plainly; he studied for the ministry, and became a clergyman, and now filled the twofold position of a temporal chief and of a minister of the Gospel. He was president of the Grand Council of the Indians in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and had been so for six years. His people were now becoming civilised and Christianised. Their hunting was gone for ever, and they were becoming farmers. He had ministered among his people fifteen years. In a few days he should return to his country, and do what he could to promote peace among his people.

Mr. H. RICHARD, M.P., in a brief speech, moved the next resolution, affirming that the best security for British power in the East is a just administration of the affairs of India, the faithful observance of our treaties with native princes and an external policy which, whether our relations with China, Japan, or the Malay States be in question, is based upon a mutual respect for international rights.

Mr. R. N. FOWLER, who seconded the resolution, referred to his recent visit to China to gather information as to the effect of the opium trade on that country, and stated that the emigration of coolies from Hong Kong had been stopped mainly by the exertions of Sir J. Smale, the Chief Justice of Hong Kong, and Mr. Chesson, the secretary of this society.

Professor SHELDON AMOS moved a resolution protesting against the existing system of coolie immigration, as being no better than a modified form of slavery. Ald. M'ARTHUR, M.P., who

seconded the motion, said he had letters from Fiji which bore testimony to the admirable manner in which Sir A. Gordon was governing those islands, and he believed that his conduct towards the aborigines was everything which this society could wish it to be. The Rev. Mr. DYKE, who stated that he had laboured as a missionary among the Basutos in South Africa for twenty years, said that tribe was saved from political destruction by the interference of this society. They were now brought to the knowledge of Christ, and were themselves sending missionaries to other tribes. After a few observations from Mr. PHILLIPS, who said he was a delegate from Barbadoes, and who spoke in defence of the planters of that island, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Friday evening, at the Cannon-street Hotel; Mr. J. W. Pease, M.P., in the chair. The large hall was filled. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said he believed there was but one feeling on the part of the Government and the people of this country, and that was a desire to put down a trade which was a curse to mankind. Letters of sympathy with the object and regret for inability to attend were received from Mr. Gladstone, Lord Selborne, Dr. Moffat, and others. The secretary (the Rev. A. Buzacott) made an oral statement as to the proceedings of the committee during the last year, beginning with the Slave Circular, with regard to which, he said, they had widely diffused information obtained from all parts of the world, and held frequent communication with the Government. The Red Sea was never so alive with the slave traffic as it is now. There was an annual slave emigration from Africa of half a million, and the society would never slacken its hand till the trade was destroyed. (Cheers.)

Sir BARTLE FRERE moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting thankfully recognises the increased interest taken by the people of England in regard to slavery and the slave trade, and views with profound satisfaction the noble efforts which are now being put forth in Africa by missionary societies and by eminent enterprising individuals for the benefit of that continent. At the same time, it would impress on the Government and the people of this country that thus far such efforts (for the benefit of Africa) have been rendered abortive by the slave trade, and that the very conditions on which such missions can exist are rendered impossible by its presence; and inasmuch as experience has shown that while slavery is maintained in Egypt, in Mohammedan and other countries, its victims will continue to be obtained from Africa, this meeting feels bound to urge that the policy and the efforts of England should also be directed to the extinction of slavery, wherever it prevails, by all just and legitimate means.

He said the great amount of attention excited by the Slave Circulars showed how deep was the public interest in the questions of slavery and the slave-trade. The success of the Church Missionary Society in Africa, in reference to the labour question, instead of alarming the Arabs, seemed to have increased their confidence in the principle of free labour, and he hoped the result would be the establishment of a free settlement on the east coast of Africa. The London Missionary Society and the French missionaries had aided in the work, and Scotland was now sending out such a colony of Scotchmen as their countryman Livingstone hardly dared to hope for. He regretted that Lieutenant Cameron was prevented by illness from telling the meeting what he saw of the slave trade. His gallant young friend had shown that the race of such travellers as Livingstone was not extinct. (Cheers.) At one time Livingstone stood almost alone, but now, let them turn which way they would, they found his followers. Stanley had already made his mark. He had shown in what part slavery was most vulnerable, and had he done nothing more than that he would have made his name imperishable. The great evil to be dealt with was being hemmed in, and even the Portuguese were beginning to set themselves to work to make a right use of their colonies on the coast. (Cheers.) Wherever the personal influence of the Khedive of Egypt was felt, the efforts of the English Government were not only appreciated but cordially supported, and it would be their fault if agricultural slavery ever got a footing in that country, and if slavery itself were not put an end to. (Cheers.) After expressing a similar opinion in reference to the Sultan of Zanzibar, Sir Bartle contended that England was entitled to colonise where neither of those rulers exercised any real authority, and where the coast trade was in the hands of Englishmen.

The Rev. HORACE WALLER, a fellow-traveller of Livingstone, in seconding the resolution, deprecated too sanguine anticipations. He believed that the idea of a diminution of the slave-trade on the east coast arose from the reduction of the number of watchers, there being at present only four cruisers. Bishop Steer had lately met caravan after caravan on the way to the coast. The Portuguese were not in earnest, and it was the duty of that society to put pressure upon them. (Cheers.) As an Englishman he was glad to be able to say that no one in this country was more anxious about the state of Africa than their most gracious Queen. (Loud cheers.)

On the motion of Mr. E. ASHLEY, M.P., seconded by Mr. STEWART, M.P., a resolution was carried affirming that the time had fully come for a further

agreement of the great Powers in reference to their relations and attitude towards those nations in which the slave-trade and slavery were yet maintained, and that Her Majesty's Government should be requested to invite once more a Conference of the great Powers in order to effect that object.

On the motion of Mr. W. MCARTHUR, M.P., seconded by Mr. HENRY PEASE, a resolution was afterwards adopted pressing on the Government the necessity of a complete revision of the principles on which servile immigration had proceeded during the last thirty years, and of reverting to those conditions which were laid down as essential for the protection of the coolies by the Order in Council issued by the Government in 1838.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Correspondence.

THE NEW EDUCATION BILL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The exposition which Lord Sandon gave last week of his new Education Bill produced a favourable impression as to the general nature of the measure. Remembering the insidious character of some of the other proposals of the present Government, the wiser Liberals said we ought to wait until we saw the bill itself, until we could examine in detail its clauses and provisions. An examination of the bill, now that it is published, abundantly justifies such reserve on the part of the friends of the education of the people on broad unsectarian principles. The bill undeniably contains some important and valuable features. The clauses which propose to enact that no child shall be employed unless it can pass a certain standard, or has attended regularly at school for a certain time, will introduce a most desirable principle into our education law. If thoroughly carried out, these provisions of the bill will, in a few years, bring about a great improvement. I apprehend all true friends of popular education will welcome the recognition of this principle in the measure. I should not, however, as Lord Sandon does, call this the key of the measure. To my mind the real key to the new bill is the 13th clause, which relates to increased grants of public money to schools in certain districts, or "special divisions" of districts. This is a most important provision of the bill, and one that demands the closest examination of all opposed to sectarian education, and to the advancement of sectarian interests through popular schools. It is a most objectionable part, because it is directly calculated, and, no doubt, has been expressly designed, to sustain and extend denominational schools by means of increased grants of public money to such schools. If carried out as they now stand, the provisions of this clause will, I believe, largely encourage the establishment of denominational, and especially of Church, schools in all parts of the country; and will at once check the establishment of school boards, and of board schools, or of schools on unsectarian principles. There are other very objectionable parts of the measure (some of which are mentioned in the resolutions passed by the committee of the Birmingham League, yesterday); but I will confine my remarks in this letter to the 13th clause.

1. It might at first seem that this 13th Clause is based upon, and only an extension and new application of, the 97th Clause of the Act of 1870. The truth, however, is that the clauses of the two measures differ most widely both as to the principle and the condition on which such increased grants are to be made, as well as to the object for which they are granted. In Lord Sandon's bill there is an entire absence of that narrow limit of the amount and other restrictions which, in Mr. Forster's Act, strictly confine these extra grants to specially small or thinly-peopled and poor districts. According to the Act of 1870, when a rate of 3d. in the pound on the rateable value of the property of a district "produced less" than 20s. a year, or less than 7s. 6d. per child in average attendance, then an extra or increased grant might be obtained from the Government that would make up the sum raised by the rate to 20s., or to 7s. 6d. per child in average attendance. But these provisions of the 97th Clause could only come into operation—1. Under a school board, or where school boards were actually formed in such poor districts. 2. When the sum said to be provided by the rate had actually been raised and paid to the school board by the rating authority. 3. When the department had been satisfied at the end of every year that these things had been done. 4. And thus these increased grants were to be made only to school boards, and for education under these boards.

2. According to the 13th clause of Lord Sandon's bill, largely increased grants are to be made by the Government on wholly different conditions and for different purposes. This clause provides that in any school district, or part of such district that has been made into "a special division" of the district, where a rate of 3d. in the pound "would produce" less than 6s. per head of one-sixth of the population (that is, the children of school age), the grant to any public elementary school in that district may be double of its income from fees and all other sources. Now, observe here—1. This provision may be adopted, firstly, in any school district in the kingdom—that is, any parish, township, borough, or city that has a separate poor-rate; or, secondly, in any ward or portion of a borough with a separate poor-rate; or, thirdly, any part of a borough, whether so divided or not, if so defined by a resolution of the council, approved by the Government, and thus constituted "a special division" for this purpose. 2. The bill does not say that this rate of 3d. in the pound must be actually raised and applied to education as does the Act of 1870. 3. Every public elementary school in the district may get this large grant of double its income from all other sources. 4. If the rate is raised and administered, this must be done by the guardians in other districts than boroughs. 5. It is not said what the school fees must be in these districts, or that the fees are to be sanctioned by the department as those of board schools are. There will be a strong inducement to make school fees low in denominational schools, in order that the managers may get larger grants. 6. These large grants of public money to denominational schools will be administered by men in no way responsible to the ratepayers of the locality—in fact, by men virtually irresponsible. 7. It should be remembered that the amount of grant which any school can now obtain is one-half the cost of its maintenance, or as much grant as its actual income from fees and other sources. It is proposed in the new bill that the grant may be double of the school's income from all sources.

3. It is most desirable that the country should endeavour to ascertain what will be the working and effects of this 13th Clause if carried out. It is not easy fully to understand its nature and consequences, or to say to what extent it can be adopted. But it seems to me very probable that, as the clause now stands, one-half of the country might readily be made into these districts or "special divisions" in order that these large grants may be obtained for denominational schools. To speak with any definiteness on such a point would require detailed knowledge of the assessment system throughout the country. But if we remember that a house that costs 10l. a year in Bradford can be obtained in a village not far distant for about 4l. a year, we may gain some notion of the rating in country places. I have in mind a country township and village near to Bradford, containing about 4,000 inhabitants with some manufacturing works, and yet a 3d. rate would not raise more than 4s. or 5s. per head on the children of school age. Judging from this the provision of the 13th Clause might be applicable to large portions of the country—to small towns, villages, country townships, and perhaps portions of large towns or boroughs.

4. If this clause can be adopted in this general way it will bring a mighty support to denominational schools throughout the country, and it will at the same time effectually check the spread of school boards and undenominational schools. It will immensely strengthen the sectarian system of education, because these large grants can be obtained for denominational schools; and we may rest assured that if such schools can be so liberally supported by public money such schools will be built by parties more zealous for the advancement of denominational interests than for education pure and simple.

5. If this scheme is carried out it will be most unjust to the inhabitants of towns and other places where school boards exist, because they may have to pay a school rate of 4d., 6d., or 9d. in the pound, and at the same time be made to help, through taxation, to educate the children in other districts where the inhabitants have only to pay 3d. in the pound, and this, too, on a very low assessment.

I trust that this and other objectionable features of the new bill will receive due attention from the Liberals of every place.

I am, &c.,

JAMES HANSON.

Bradford, May 23, 1876.

THE EDUCATION BILL IN RURAL PARISHES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—It appears to me that "compulsion without choice of schools" will affect rural parishes more seriously than is commonly supposed. Let me put a case—An agricultural parish with a population of 800 has a school under the sole control of the rector of the parish, and duly recognised by the Education Department. The Nonconformist minister has also a private school, in which he teaches children at a charge of, say, four times the amount paid at the public school. The rector is notoriously careless about anything beyond the observance of his High-Church views of religion, and the public school is in disrepute amongst the poor people for a variety of reasons, so that some of them pay the extra fees of the private school, and send their children there. The Nonconformist congregation also raise a small fund to aid some who have conscientious objections to the public school. The Congregational minister is very much dependent on his school, and it is highly valued by many who are not of his church. The new bill will affect such a parish thus:—If children must have certificates to free them for work, which certificates can only be obtained by attending the public school, the private school may have to be given up and the minister be obliged to leave the place; for not many parents in a purely agricultural parish will think they can afford to have their children kept from work till they are fourteen years of age. Then parents will strongly object to being compelled to send their children to a school which may be inefficient as well as religiously offensive. The objections will in all probability be greatly strengthened if the competition of the private school be withdrawn. The yearly visit of the Government inspector is not trusted as a guarantee of efficiency, and the conscience clause is not thought worth anything at all.

The increase of local rates which will be caused is a fair matter of complaint by the farmers, so long as additions to the rate continue to be unequally levied on the same basis as the old rates; and this more than any Boottian prejudice against education has been the great bar against the introduction of school boards in rural parishes and the same reason will operate against putting the permissive provisions of the new bill into action.

By all means let the children be compelled to go to school, but let priestcraft be compelled to keep out where children are compelled to go in, and let private schools obtain certificates of results and attendance as easily as public schools.

Is the bill, as it now stands, another attempt to stamp Nonconformity out of the rural parishes, and to give as the only alternative, both for elementary and adult education, a semi-Romanism? The result to Nonconformity may be, that like camomile, the more it is trodden upon the more it will grow.

Yours truly,

JAMES YOUNGMAN.

Woodham, near Chelmsford, May 29, 1876.

EAST LONDON CHURCHES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Will you allow me to invite the attention of your readers to a fund which is being raised to free four East London churches from debt? Your advertising columns will inform them of a bazaar which is to be held in aid of this fund on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of June. We require 4,400*l.*, towards which we have promises amounting to 2,500*l.*, so that even if the bazaar should equal our most sanguine expectations, we shall have a thousand pounds still to raise.

I have been working this scheme for nearly eighteen months, and my appeals have been kindly responded to by many friends. I may instance Clapton-park and Blackheath, from the latter of which I am receiving about 220*l.*, besides goods for the bazaar. A few similar contributions would complete my undertaking. And are there not many suburbs where there are wealthy families who owe all their worldly substance to the trade and commerce of East London? A lady said to me to-day, "There is plenty of money in the East. Mr. — made all his money there." "Yes," I replied, "but he took it all away." And the same might be said of thousands besides.

I appeal very specially to Congregationalists. There are who can give their hundreds and even thousands to support "missions," which, without any disrespect, I may call sensational and much given to boasting, who will not give me a penny to aid these four churches, although each of them is a true mission, and doing genuine mission work. It is the more incumbent on others to aid,

Let me add that the four churches are working strenuously to effect their emancipation. My own church is working as strenuously as if it were for itself, and some other eastern churches are giving generous help, so that I am not ashamed to ask the help of Christian friends in other parts. Money contributions will be thankfully received by the treasurer, Mr. T. Scrutton, 73, East India-road, by the Rev. W. Tyler, and by myself.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN KENNEDY.

27, Stepney-green, May 29, 1876.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday Morning.

Mr. Disraeli's frequent absence from the House during the past week has turned many minds to the consideration of what will happen when, like quite a different man who died at Grey Friars with Clive Newcome and the rest round his bedside, he shall answer "Adsum!" when his name is called. The Premier looked deadly ill when he took his seat at question time on Thursday night, and he only stayed an hour. He was not there at all on Friday; but last night he returned, having, in the interim, wonderfully improved, and was able to remain up to dinner-time, and even to return for an hour after dinner. It is a broochial attack from which he has been suffering, and it has treated him as cruelly as is the wont of such afflictions, trying a frail body worn out with the warfare of seventy-two years' hard living. It is the penalty men in the position of Mr. Disraeli pay that they and their chances of prolonged life should be calmly discussed, and account taken of what will follow when they are dead. Talking in that way, everybody here is agreed that Sir Stafford Northcote will, whenever the time arrives, succeed Mr. Disraeli in the leadership of the House of Commons. As to who is to be Premier is another and more difficult matter. Lord Derby appears to have the hereditary right to the title, and his succession would be sufficiently popular throughout the country. But then it is people who behold Lord Derby at a distance who are the most impressed with his talents and his capability. Those who see him closer at hand are inclined to regard him as a sober, safe, and withal somewhat common-place personage, by no means gifted with the keen political insight and profound wisdom in which popular regard has enveloped him. As compared with the Marquis of Salisbury, for example, Lord Derby is what the Americans call "a very ordinary person"; and, if the noble marquis were something less of a Tory, his right to rule as Prime Minister would be as unquestioned as is the acceptance of Sir Stafford Northcote's reversion to the leadership of the House of Commons. It is what Mr. Pepys calls "pretty to see," how one man may not be the head of the great Tory party because he is very much a Tory, whilst another is conceded the first lieutenantancy because he is on occasions so much of a good sound Liberal that it is hard to distinguish his views from those of the right hon. gentlemen on the bench opposite.

In the absence of the Prime Minister matters have progressed in a humdrum fashion, occasionally relieved towards midnight by lightning flashes, chiefly coming from below the gangway on the Liberal side, where the Irish members most do congregate. One direct consequence of the illness of Mr. Disraeli has been to defer the settlement of the great "stranger" question, in respect of which Mr. Lewis is burning with holy zeal. The hon. member generally manages to have some reference to the topic on the paper of each succeeding night, sometimes in the shape of a question, and again of a postponement—or alteration of the notice. Mr. Lewis shrewdly suspects that the Premier would be glad to shunt him and his grievance, and he loses no opportunity of letting those it may concern see that he does not mean to be shunted. On Friday he had a notice on the paper of a question, addressed to Mr. Disraeli, and put there with the intention of ascertaining when and in what form the Premier intended to bring on the resolution on the general subject of the presence of strangers in the House. Mr. Disraeli being absent, he postponed the question till yesterday, when the Prime Minister answered that he would put it down amongst the notices of motion for to-night. It is dangerous prophesying when the prophecy or the accomplished fact will be recorded side by side. But writing some hours before the House meets I should say that it was exceedingly unlikely that the affair will come on to-night or on this side of the Whitsun recess. The question, apart from the personal turn which Mr. Lewis has

given it, is one of very great importance, and will give rise to an interesting and prolonged debate. What Mr. Disraeli now proposes to do is to re-enact the sessional order of last year, which directed that in the event of an hon. member spying strangers, the galleries should not be cleared until the House had declared its will, which is only to be ascertained by a division taken without debate. Mr. Butt's constitutional sensibilities are wounded by this proposal, and he means to move an amendment protesting against the introduction of the precedent that Parliament shall decide any question without debate. Then there is the general question of the accommodation of the Press in the House, and the particular grievance of the provincial newspapers who demand that they shall be directly represented. All this will be discussed on, and when the form of the resolution has been finally settled and agreed to by the House, Mr. Lewis will open his batteries against the journalist who, he avers, is guilty of writing the "Clock" articles in the *World*, and will read a tremendous indictment, built up on his sixty-two quotations from the offending articles. This is a slight alteration of his original programme, and has, it is said, arisen from a suspicion that there was an intention on the part of the House absolutely to ignore him and his grievance, confining itself in the debate to the main issue. But now Mr. Lewis will have a debate all to himself, and may, if he chooses, divide the House on the direct issue he will place before it.

The Commons Bill is now fairly before the House, and has already proved fruitful of successes. The opposition to it is small in numbers but is strong in speech-making power; and, being led by Mr. Fawcett, is not to be turned aside from its purpose by Ministerial blandishments or even by considerations of the progress of public business. Thursday night was chiefly taken up by debate on the motion to go into committee—the monotony of the debate being varied by a wonderful speech from Mr. Knight, an intelligent Tory member, who would probably prosecute for libel any newspaper that published a verbatim report of any passage of his speech. After wandering around in a breathless and altogether incomprehensible manner, Mr. Knight triumphantly produced a letter, with respect to which he did not disguise his opinion that it would straightway, and for all time, dispose of the opposition to the Ministerial measure for dealing with commons. He did not disclose the identity of the author of the letter, or hint at it further than to say he was "a capital sportsman"; but he placed before the House in all its pure barbarity the statement which it was written to convey, and which was to the effect that, in the year 1862, I think it was, a young tourist sat down on a common in Devonshire, ate his lunch, and accidentally set the furze on fire. When Mr. Knight added that the name of the young tourist was Shaw-Levevre, the House, which had gradually been attracted by Mr. Knight's odd style till it was listening attentively, burst into a roar of laughter, amid which the hon. member, certain that he had clenched the question triumphantly, sat down having made on the whole the finest speech of the session. Later at night the fun assumed a fresh and more furious aspect, when the little band in opposition protested against any progress being made with the Bill in committee, and expressed their views by the ordinary expedient of dividing the House with the promise of continuing the process indefinitely. After one or two trials of strength, Mr. Cross agreed to report progress; but the young blood was up on the Ministerial side, and the rank-and-file breaking away from the leadership of the Home Secretary, refused to agree to the motion to report progress, and were, to the great scandal of the Government, joined in the lobby by some right hon. gentlemen from the Treasury Bench. Last night, after spending some hours in the discussion of a single clause which appeared again towards midnight—this time introduced by Mr. Parnell, who being conscientiously of the opinion that the House ought to finish its work by midnight, opened a debate on the question of adjournment, which kept the House angrily dividing and talking till a quarter-past one in the morning. This surely is a specially Hibernian way of bringing about early closing!

Mr. John Latouche, author of "Travels in Portugal," will, we understand, contribute to the forthcoming July number of the *New Quarterly Magazine* the first of a series of papers to be entitled "The Tourist in Portugal."

The *Academy* states that Professor Max Müller has left England for a year's holiday, and is now settled in his new quarters in Germany. He hopes that the rest, combined with change of air and society, will completely restore his health.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION BILL.

The second reading of the Elementary Education Bill is fixed for the 12th of June, when Mr. Mundella will submit as an Amendment—

That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that the recommendations contained in the recent Report of the Factory and Workshops Acts Commission, relating to the enforcement of the attendance of children at school, should be introduced in any measure for improving the elementary education of the people.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, replying to questions which had been placed on the paper by Mr. Sandford and Mr. Isaac, Viscount SANDON said: In answer to the question of the hon. member for Maldon, I will at once say that it is intended, as I should have thought was obvious from Clause 6 of the Elementary Education Act, that Boards of Guardians, if they pass bye-laws on the requisition of the ratepayers of a parish, should have identically the same powers as School Boards now possess of compelling the attendance of children at public elementary schools, whether denominational or not, and it is just as carefully provided in the Bill of this Session as in the Act of 1870, that no compulsion should be used unless there is within reach of the child a public elementary school—that is to say, an efficient school, with the ample Conscience Clause of the Education Act, 1870. It is also true, as my hon. friend the member for Nottingham mentions in his question, that it is in the power of School Boards, where they have any bye-laws for compulsion and where no denominational schools exist, to compel the attendance of children of the Church of England, the Church of Rome, and of children professing the Jewish religion, at Board schools where the teaching of the Catechism and other religious formularies of such children is prohibited. I must remind the hon. gentleman the member for Maldon that the only alternative modes of treatment of this question are to leave the neglected children alone, untaught and untrained in all the numerous places where there are only denominational public elementary schools, or to destroy all such denominational schools, after having spent some ten or twelve millions of money upon them from voluntary sources, and throw them upon the rates. I leave the hon. gentleman to judge whether such proposals are likely to rally the country to the somewhat strange coalition of parties at which his proposal points.

Lord R. MONTAGU asked the Vice-President of the Council whether he had before the drawing and consideration of his Education Bill, prepared a return (from the Blue-book "Parishes," No 114, of 1868, or from other sources) of all the civil parishes or school districts where a rate of 3d. in the pound will not produce 6s. per head of one-sixth of the population of the parish, showing the number of schools in such parish, and distinguishing the schools as "Church of England," "Nonconformist," "Roman Catholic," and "Board schools." Lord SANDON: We carefully inquired into the effect of our proposals respecting poor districts before we laid the bill upon the table of the House, and the valuable returns which the noble lord obtained in 1868 were of considerable service to us in considering this matter. We have not, however, the complete return of the whole of the parishes and districts to which he alludes, nor have we considered the character of the schools in each parish, distinguishing them as Church of England, Nonconformist, Roman Catholic, or Board schools. This part of the question we did not enter into at all, as we treated the matter of extra assistance to the poor districts as one which was needed to remedy a general injustice to the poor districts, both in town and country, whether under School Boards or not; and we have not made any inquiry as to the respective numbers of Board schools, Roman Catholic, Nonconformist, and Church of England, in these poor districts. I shall be happy to do my best to get printed a return as to the first part of the noble lord's question before the second reading of the bill. With regard to the other part, respecting the character of the schools to be affected, it would be a most laborious return, and would take a long time and much tact to prepare, and there would be no chance of having it ready for the discussions on this bill. I am sorry, therefore, I cannot comply with the second part of the noble lord's request. Lord R. MONTAGU gave notice that he would move for the returns referred to.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER has moved for a return of all school districts being boroughs where a rate of 3d. in the pound on the rateable value will not produce 6s. per head of one-sixth of the population of such school district.

At a meeting of the representatives of the United Nonconformist Committees, held on Friday at Crews, Mr. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. That, in the judgment of this meeting, the principles of religious liberty are seriously violated while there are large districts of the country in which the only elementary schools receiving assistance from the State are connected with the Established Church, and are maintained for the purpose of promoting its interests; so that Nonconformist parents are unable to secure education for their children except by sending them to schools under the practically irresponsible control of the clergy of the Establishment; and that this injustice will be rendered more flagrant by the introduction under Lord Sandon's bill of a compulsory law.

2. That Clause 12 of Lord Sandon's bill, authorising boards of guardians to pay out of the rates the fees of children attending denominational schools, sanctions the sectarian application of public funds, and is open to

every objection applicable to the 25th Clause of the Act of 1870; that Clause 12 is especially objectionable because it is combined with the compulsory clauses of the bill. It will largely increase the attendance and income of inefficient denominational schools at present struggling for existence, and which, but for the aid under this measure, might probably be closed, thus securing the establishment of school boards.

3. That the gravest objections exist to entrusting the managers of denominational schools with the administration of a compulsory law, and that therefore Clause 24, under which the local authority may delegate its power to other persons, should be so amended as to provide that no such power should be exercised by persons who are also managers of denominational schools.

4. That this meeting objects to the bill because as the result of investing town councils and boards of guardians with the administration of a compulsory law, but withholding from them the power of erecting new schools, the future extension of the means of education in all the districts which the bill specially contemplates will be secured only by the multiplication of denominational schools under the control of private managers. The bill will therefore delay the erection of schools truly national, because administered by public and responsible authorities.

5. That it is absolutely essential, in order to establish and maintain religious equality, that Nonconformists should have a voice in the direction of the schools to which they may be forced to send their own children; and that to secure this end it is necessary that in every district there should be a school board with a school under its management accessible to all the inhabitants of the district.

6. That all grants of public money in aid of schools under ecclesiastical and irresponsible management are wrong in principle, and that it should be a condition of receiving any grants for public funds that the school should be placed during secular instruction under the control of a representative board.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Education League was held on Wednesday—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the chair—to consider the new Government Education Bill. After a short discussion, the following resolution, the clauses of which were proposed *seriatim*, by different members of the committee, was passed unanimously:—

That, in the opinion of this committee, the Government Education Bill is highly objectionable and defective, inasmuch as while it strengthens denominational interests, it discourages the establishment of school boards and fails to provide efficient machinery for national education, and, before it can be accepted as a temporary solution of the education problem, it requires to be amended in the following important particulars:—

1. No measure will give permanent satisfaction to the country which does not provide for the direct compulsory attendance at school of every child in England and Wales, and the necessity for such provision is practically admitted by the bill of the Government.

2. It is desirable that any local authorities to whom the powers of compulsion may be entrusted should have all the powers conferred upon school boards under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, for the provision and management of schools.

3. Clause 12, providing that parents who, on account of poverty, are unable to pay school fees, shall apply to the guardians for money, is highly objectionable in principle, inasmuch as its effect will be to degrade respectable parents by compelling them to apply for poor relief; it will tend to increase the number of paupers, and will also be used as a means of subsidising sectarian schools out of local rates. In the opinion of the committee, the case of such parents should be met by a large extension of the principle of free education recognised in clause 14 of the bill, and by enabling local authorities to provide free schools in poor localities.

4. The permission given to local authorities (by clause 24 and section 1 of the 2nd schedule) to delegate their powers to committees consisting of persons outside their own bodies is a violation of the principle of representative authority, and will lead to serious abuse, as it will have the effect in rural districts of placing compulsory powers in the hands of irresponsible and interested persons.

5. So far as the committee are able to understand the clause (13) relating to Parliamentary grants, it appears to make an undesirable concession to the managers of denominational schools; and while the committee would not object to the payment of the full grant earned by any school, they think that it is desirable that the proportion of voluntary subscriptions required as a condition of management should be increased rather than lessened.

6. The committee regard the standard of proficiency (Sub-section 3 of the 1st Schedule) required to obtain a certificate in the first four years of the operation of the Act as most inadequate, and they are of opinion that every effort should be made to expunge the clause which provides that where a child has once obtained a certificate he may be taken into employment in any subsequent year without any further certificate being required.

7. In the opinion of the committee, Clause 27, which provides that for the first twelve months after the passing of the Act it shall apply to children of nine years of age as if they were ten years of age, and the exemption of children who shall have attained the age of eleven years at the passing of the Act from its operation, fails to recognise the rights of the children, and will be a virtual denial of education to large numbers."

At a meeting of the executive committee of the National Education Union it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE, seconded by Mr. F. S. POWELL:—"That this meeting approves of the general principle of Lord Sandon's bill, and refers to a sub-committee the consideration of the details, particularly the question of introducing into the bill some provisions for securing religious education."

A correspondent of the *School Board Chronicle* thus refers to the constitution of boards of guardians, which it is well to bear in mind in connection with Lord Sandon's bill:—

All magistrates are guardians *ex officio*, and their

number may be nearly equal to the elected ones. Again, those elected by the parishes are not chosen by all the ratepayers in the same way. Each owner and each occupying ratepayer of a rental under 50*l.* have one vote, under 100*l.* two, and so on up to six votes, and owners if occupiers may vote as both. And then the Guardian's qualification consists in being rated within the union at some sum not exceeding 40*l.* As regards town councils the plan is feasible enough. But the denominational schools will always be a difficulty; even with popularly elected town councils and with guardians it will be almost surmountable. Better let the union elect a board for itself, in the same way that school boards are now elected, to work where no school board exists, and to carry out the work now proposed to be done by the guardians.

That newspaper has the following remarks in the course of a leading article on the bill:—

As to the provisions for direct compulsion, we fail to see in what way they are an improvement upon the school board system. Take first the case of making town councils in boroughs the authority to carry out compulsion. The town council makes bye-laws, appoints a committee, elects compulsion officers, and by this machinery attempts to drive children into schools. In what way has this machinery an advantage over the school board? So far as its powers go its work will not be done more cheaply than the same work by a school board. The only difference will be that the committee has not been elected by the ratepayers for this purpose, and is not likely, therefore, to be composed of men who take a special interest in education. The only object, so far as we can see, in setting up this new authority, is to prevent the school machinery of the district from being in any way interfered with. These bodies cannot build board schools, they cannot encourage managers of voluntary schools to change them into board schools, they cannot interfere with the existing schools in any way. They leave the managers of voluntary schools absolute masters of the field of elementary education. If that is an advantage, it is the sole advantage which the new authority will have over that of the school board. The same may be said of the guardians and the committee appointed by them. The work they perform cannot be done more cheaply than it would be done by the school board, and is not likely to be done so well, since their power will be limited by the rules laid down by the ratepayers in vestry assembled, who cannot be so well qualified to consider matters of detail in connection with compulsory attendance at school as a body chosen for the special qualifications of its members.

On the whole the *School Board Chronicle* is of opinion that though the bill does not attempt to undo what was done six years ago; and though it will in some places for a time perhaps prevent the introduction of the school board where the school board would be the right thing, it will not prevent school boards increasing in number at least at an equal rate to that in which they would have increased if there had been no new legislation whatever.

The *Watchman* is decidedly opposed to Lord Sandon's bill. Calling attention to the resolution adopted by the Wesleyan Conference in 1873 in favour of universal school boards, in order that "an undenominational school may be placed within reasonable distance of every family," our contemporary remarks that if the present measure becomes law there need be no more school boards, and all future schools may be denominational instead of undenominational. The *Watchman*, therefore, calls upon Wesleyans to resist the bill "in the interests of justice to their own denomination." Attention is also called to resolutions adopted by a large majority by the Conference at Newcastle to this effect—first, that all school board schools should be unsectarian; and next: "That the whole country should be forthwith divided into school districts; and that a school board should, without any delay, be constituted in every district." This resolution contains the only guarantee of religious liberty in the rural districts. There may be difficulties in connection with school boards, but the question is whether they do not do the required work better than anything else that can be devised.

In the first place, school boards have accomplished more than any other machinery for education; in the second place, they have done most for securing the attendance of the scholars; and in the third place, they have done much for the assertion and protection of the religious liberties of the people. And the cost has been none too great. If any change is to be effected it is in the improved working of the school board principle, and not in setting it aside. If Lord Sandon's bill becomes law the enormous balance of its gain will be for the Church of England, and the Methodist platform will be destroyed. His lordship proposes to drive the Methodist children in nearly all the rural parishes of England into the Church of England schools. Mr. Forster gave them six months' grace; Lord Sandon takes away from guardians or town councils the power to establish and maintain schools; the Church of England may start as many schools as she pleases, and Lord Sandon stands behind the hedge with indirect compulsion in his hand to sweep the Nonconformist children into the Episcopalian schools. School boards are not an absolute guarantee of religious liberty, but school boards and educational districts are the best guarantees we can get, and no education bill of any Government, whether Conservative or Liberal, can have our support if it refuse to grant the request of the Newcastle conference.

The *Guardian* does not see that the bill reverses, or materially modifies the Act of 1870—

We had heard of the probability of some measure for relieving voluntary schools by the principle of allocation of rates; it was thought at least possible that the Government would do something, if not to enforce, at least to recognise and reward, religious instruction in elementary schools; it was hoped that they might attempt such modification of the Cowper-Temple clause as should admit, without any doubt, the teaching under

it of the Apostles' Creed, as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments; it was confidently asserted that they would at any rate allow a community which was weary of a school board to abolish it by consent of the department. Many of these expectations we always thought to be visionary, because the general temper of the Government gave little reason to look for "heroic legislation," in the face of the clamour which almost any of these measures would have undoubtedly raised. We now find that not one of them is fulfilled. The bill does not even pretend to take a comprehensive and decisive grasp of the whole question. It is another "Amendment Act," of considerably more importance than the Act of 1872; it is hardly anything more. We hope that some of the points which it was expected to raise may yet be raised by independent members on the Ministerial side. For it is quite possible that the Government may willingly accept from its own friends what it does not itself venture to originate; and it is, we think, eminently desirable that some nearer approach should be made to the settlement of the critical points of controversy on the education question.

The only provision in the bill which meets in any degree the present distress of the voluntary schools is found among what Lord Sandon calls the "subsidiary provisions." It refers entirely to "poor districts"—those which are shown to be poor by a calculation of their rating in comparison with the number of children needing elementary education. In these it proposes to increase the Government grant by doubling the proportion which it may bear to the amount derived from fees, rates, and subscriptions. It does not, so far as we can see, relax in any degree the conditions on which it is to be earned. The effect of this provision will be twofold—to help voluntary schools in localities in which they have a hard struggle for existence, and to relieve the pressure on the rates of poor districts which are rated separately. Both effects will, we think, be good; but the boon, valuable as it is, will be very far from meeting all the difficulties under which voluntary schools are labouring at the present moment.

The *Spectator* remarks that the Government measure may be called a bill for enabling certain persons living in the country to do, if they wish, what they will seldom wish to do, towards enforcing the education of the children of the poor. Lord Sandon's "indirect compulsion, while it hardly acts at all to promote the education of girls, may promote that of many boys indeed, but at the not inconsiderable cost of injuring those whose education it fails to promote." "The more we study Lord Sandon's bill (says the *Spectator*), the less can we agree with him that it is 'bold,' as well as cautious. It is not bold to tempt with inadequate inducements, where you might safely command—or to entrust great powers to bodies who are least inclined to use them. That is a species of tentativeness which will not greatly advance the enterprise on behalf of which it is made."

THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER AND THE NORWOOD COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

On the day of the Prince of Wales's return from his Indian tour, Grosvenor House, the residence of the Duke of Westminster, was thrown open to a large number of invited guests, whose aid and sympathy were bespoken by the noble Duke on behalf of the Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, of which he is the president. The musical programme was one of high-class music, and was carried out in such a manner as to reflect great credit both upon Mr. Campbell, the principal, and upon his pupils. The duet and chorus from Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" and the psalm "Hear my Prayer," by the same composer, were rendered with admirable taste and accuracy, and some solo pieces, by equally eminent composers, were sung most effectively and pathetically.

The duke, in the interval of the pieces, briefly but emphatically and earnestly pleaded with the audience for their support of the college, giving a résumé of its history, and describing its special characteristics; and Mr. Campbell, who is himself blind, eloquently set forth the advantages which the system of tuition adopted at Norwood possesses in comparison with others hitherto followed in the various asylums established in England. His plan, based upon the model of the American institutions, in which he has had a wide experience, is rooted in a clear understanding of the peculiar requirements of the blind, which has been altogether overlooked in this country. "Teach a man to be useful," says Mr. Campbell, "and you make him happy." This cannot be effected by merely giving him enough to eat, and enabling him to earn five or ten shillings a week by manual labour. It is poor economy to keep an army of blind people in a condition of pauperism, to say nothing of the misery and hopelessness which such treatment entails. The appeal which was put into our hands at Grosvenor House states that "upwards of seventy pupils from London and other large towns have been under instruction in the college since its foundation in 1872; several have already left the college, and are now regularly employed as thoroughly competent pianoforte tuners; and the progress of the pupils generally has proved so satisfactory that numerous eligible young persons are now anxious to obtain the special education and training afforded at the college. Several candidates might be admitted without delay, and accommodation will shortly be provided in buildings now being erected for fifty additional pupils. Many of the candidates will soon pass the age for effective training and tuition, and if not shortly placed under instruction, will lose their opportunity for life of rising out of the helpless and dependent class. An interesting article appeared in the *Cornhill Magazine*

for March, in which the writer thus relates the circumstances which led to the establishment of the college at Norwood:—

Mr. Campbell first called upon us with a letter from a friend about a year ago, and in reply to our question told us very simply how it happened that he, a stranger in our land, alone, without means or influence (except indeed that inestimable influence of personal character) should have determined to found an institution conducted according to the methods so successfully carried out in his own country. He had been for thirteen years or more musical director, and for some time resident superintendent of the Boston School for the Blind, and had come over with his wife to Europe for a holiday to recruit his health after very long continued hard work. Their return passage was taken, and it was only two days before the ship was to start that he happened to attend a certain meeting of blind poor in London, and that his attention was from circumstances forcibly drawn to the sufferings of some among them. Mr. Campbell spent some hours there, and talked to one person and another. He walked home, utterly crushed and dispirited, he told us; for the first time recognising the lives to which some of these uneducated, untrained, and suffering human beings were necessarily condemned. In America, said the American, things were differently arranged. By the time he got back to his wife, he had made up his mind. He said to her, "I think there is work for us to do over here. We will not go back; we will wait and see whether we cannot do something for some of the English blind," and so with music in his gift and relief from bonds of unspeakable weight, in a helping spirit of generous interest, this American, with the assistance of some true friends, has spent the last few years following out his plans, administering the funds that have been placed at his disposal, encouraging, educating, and inspiring his followers.

The sum which it was estimated would be required to build and equip an institution for the reception and effective training of 120 pupils is 25,000*l.*; of this 16,000*l.* has been already received, and the remainder is urgently needed.

We are naturally apt to think compassionately of the deprivation which blindness involves. None can know as the refined and educated of this class, how that deprivation can be mitigated and minimised. One feels in contact with them that there are susceptibilities in them of which the seeing have but little knowledge. "The things seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal." There is a concentration of thought and affection upon the heart and meaning of things in their case which is rarely attained by those whose eyes behold their outward form and fashion. The great secret of Mr. Campbell's method is in his utilisation of this compensating element. There is more real communion with nature among the inmates of this college as they wander in their leisure hours around the beautiful grounds that surround the building, hearing the singing of birds and noting the gradual unfolding of flower and shrub, than there is in most of those whose "eyes are at the ends of the earth." We know of no institution for the blind in which this faculty is nourished as it is at the college at Norwood.

We shall, in an early number, give some particulars of the methods of instruction adopted by Mr. Campbell; meanwhile urging our readers to visit the school themselves, and commending it most warmly to their support. Contributions should be forwarded to Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., at the office, 28, Mount-street, Grosvenor-square.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The news by telegraph and letter from and about Turkey almost excludes the ordinary foreign intelligence. All the information that comes to hand concurs in the opinion that the Porte will reject the Memorandum of the three Imperial Powers, specially objects to the proposed armistice of two months and will ask for explanations, particularly in regard to the final paragraph of the Note—that referring to the adoption of "more effective means," in the event of the results of the present plan not being successful.

The semi-official Russian News Agency publishes an article in which it is declared that the assent of the five Continental Powers to the Berlin Memorandum will remain intact in spite of the refusal of England. The article adds:—"The propositions drawn up at Berlin have not yet been transmitted to the Ottoman Government, but they will be sent certainly in the course of a few days. If England wishes to act in conjunction with the five other Cabinets, it can still make the proposition it considers best and leave its purely negative attitude." According to the same authority, England will do nothing at Constantinople to prevent the Ottoman Government from accepting the proposed terms.

It is stated by a Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* that the following are substantially the reasons why the British Government have declined to accede to the Berlin memorandum:—

The English Government states that all the Powers were substantially agreed that the original Andrassy Note went far enough, and that it would be an infringement upon the sovereignty of the Porte, and quite unjust, to go further. It holds that time has not yet been given for carrying out the accepted reforms to the extent England had a right to expect; especially as she has seen no reason for concluding that the Porte was indisposed to carry out such reforms. Pacification, too, was considered necessary before it could be possible for those reforms to be put into execution. None could have watched the events of the last three months without seeing that one of the great obstacles to the pacification of the Herzegovina was the breach of neutral duties committed by Montenegro, of which the English Government could not remain ignorant. The proposal that the troops should be withdrawn to certain

places, and that the insurgents should be invited to retain their positions and arms, seems to the English Government to be a premium upon the renewal of hostilities. The gigantic system of gratuitous relief proposed in the Berlin document for an indefinite time would, it was considered, have been quite beyond the power of Turkey to carry out, and seriously destructive of the morality and thriftiness of an industrious people. The proposal on the part of the Powers to take "more effectual measures" at the end of the two months' armistice is considered by England as an effective encouragement to the insurgents to continue in rebellion, and also as an inducement to the Prince of Montenegro to persevere in his breaches of neutrality in the hope that he may obtain an accession of territory. With regard to the mere proposal of an armistice England could not raise objections, provided that the insurgents were compelled to give security that they would be in all respects equally bound by it. The English Government is understood to have expressed an opinion that the question of bringing ships of war into the Dardanelles is put forward by the Powers in an inconsiderate manner, inasmuch as it amounts to a proposed breach of the Treaty of 1856, and is directly contrary to the long-established custom of preventing vessels of war from passing those straits.

The news from the insurgent districts is not very important. The Turks for the time being are busy chiefly in provisioning their many isolated forts. There have, however, been some isolated encounters, the results of which are uncertain, both sides claiming to have been successful. Mukhtar Pacha is at Mostav, probably awaiting reinforcements. It is also stated that the Porte has paid all the arrears to the soldiers in the Herzegovina, and has also paid for the supplies sent there.

Another statement is to the effect that the Porte intends calling in all the reserves, in order to make a "supreme effort to suppress the insurrection. It is rumoured that the Sultan, upon learning from the Grand Vizier that the cash in the Treasury would not suffice to meet the requirements of the public departments, has promised to advance necessary funds from his own privy purse."

Statements have recently appeared as to spread of the insurrection in Bulgaria. The rebels are said to have occupied the Balkan passes, and to be provided with leaders by Serbia. On the other hand, the Turkish general in that province declares that the insurgents have been completely subdued, and that military operations had ceased. The Pera correspondent of the *Times*, writing of the atrocities which are committed, denounces the Bashi-bazouks as "indiscriminate robbers and cold-blooded murderers," and adds that their Christian opponents are "hardly any better."

At a meeting, held on the 23rd, the leaders of the Herzegovina rebellion, having been informed of the principal propositions of the Berlin Conference, determined to continue the war until the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be conceded.

The news from Serbia is menacing. The Government of that principality are making preparations as if for immediate war. A loan for half-a-million sterling has been issued; the payment of all bills now running has been postponed for three months; the liberty of the press has been suspended; and several Russian officers have been taken into Prince Milan's pay in order to organise the national army for active service. General Tcherniaeff, the conqueror of Turkestan, having been appointed commander of the Serbian army.

The *Nord* publishes the manifesto of the Bosnian insurgents as communicated to the Berlin Conference by M. Wesserslitzky. It is similar to that of the Herzegovinians, but contains no claim for a gratuitous concession of territory. It accepts the Andrassy reforms, and asks for guarantees of their being carried out. In a letter addressed to *Le Nord* by M. Wesserslitzky, that gentleman confirms this intelligence.

M. Vassilitzki, the Russo-Herzegovinese agent, in a letter on the results of the Berlin Conference, tells the Herzegovina chiefs that the Northern Powers approve the demands put forward by the insurgents, and are endeavouring to secure the necessary guarantees for the speedy realisation of the national programme. He also remarks that the wisdom displayed by the Herzegovinian rebels in intrusting the direction of their operations to the Prince of Montenegro is a sure guarantee of success.

On Friday and Saturday the tribunal instituted for the trial of the prisoners accused of participation in the murder of the French and German consuls at Sal-nica passed sentence on some twenty of the number, four being condemned to death, the remainder to various terms of penal servitude and imprisonment.

The correspondence from various quarters, Constantinople and elsewhere, has become very interesting as throwing light on the gravity of the crisis. The following is from a French writer relative to the plans of the Softas who lately obliged the Sultan to dismiss his Grand Vizier:—

No one considers the present Grand Vizier as playing anything but a temporary part, and in a short time he will be obliged to yield his place to Midhat. The Softas have measured their force; they are well organised and disciplined, and are some 80,000 strong. Their avowed programme runs thus:—Advent of Midhat as Grand Vizier and adoption of his policy, which consists in promulgating a Constitution the chief points of which are:—1. Power guaranteed to him for a certain period. 2. That there be an elective chamber in permanence in Constantinople. 3. That the civil list be limited to 50,000*l.* a-month, everything included. The Softas go further, and demand the restitution by the Sultan of 15,000,000*l.* which he has hoarded; that with this sum the arrears of the Government clerks be paid; also the coupons. These and other things the Softas demand,

and the correspondent of *M. le Duc* thinks they will obtain all they want when once Midhat is in office. A petition is to be presented to the Sultan, and if this petition be not favourably received, prayers will cease in the mosques, and Constantinople be laid under interdiction. The people, according to the Koran, have the right of commanding the deposition and even the death of the Sultan, and if the Sultan refuses to grant their demands they will sit in judgment on him.

The *Daily News* correspondent speaks of the Softas as men who have hitherto stopped every scheme of reform, and most of whom are inconceivably ignorant. Their fanaticism, too, he says, equals their ignorance, and they attribute all the present difficulties of the empire to the neglect of the teachings of Islamism. The *Pera* correspondent of the *Times* thus vividly describes the tribulation and impotent rage of the Sultan—

Sultan Abd-ul-Aziz Khan, Refuge of the World and Shadow of God, thirty-second Sovereign of the dynasty of Osman, and twenty-ninth since the conquest of Constantinople, is not at this present moment in the most enviable frame of mind. He keeps wandering from palace to palace, from Dolma-Baghtché to Töhragan, from Töhragan to the Yildiz-Kiosk, and from the Yildiz-Kiosk back again to Dolma-Baghtché, but neither the number nor the vastness of his Imperial mansions seems to have room enough for him and for the anxious cares which beset him. He looks down from his window, and behold! anchored close to the Tophané shore, within musket-shot of his august and sacred person, he sees a double row of foreign men-of-war—the Sokol of Russia, the Gladiateur of France, the Freundsberg of Austria, the Seylla of Italy, the Bismarck of England, powerful vessels most of them, though entering the Straits under the modest designation of *stationnaires*, armed with few, but formidable guns, and manned by crews which could in any emergency land an aggregate force of 1,500 men, little heeding the mighty array of his ironclads, for which he can muster no men, or of his long rows of cannon, for which he knows not how to purchase ammunition. So galling to his sublime majesty is the sight of these gunboats, that upon the arrival of the Sokol, bearing the hated Russian flag, he was seized, if report may be credited, with one of his violent paroxysms of fury, which he vented upon his inoffensive window-panes, smashing two of them with his fist. Telegrams reach him from his ambassador at Berlin, telling him how the high chancellors of the three Empires are laying their heads together to devise the terms on which he may hope to make peace with his rebel subjects—terms to which his consent is taken for granted, though no one sees by what means they will eventually be enforced on the insurgents. From Stamboul intelligence is conveyed to him of an incessant stir among the Softas, unsatisfied with their first victory, purchasing arms for a renewed strife, plotting new demonstrations, organising new deputations, which are to come to him with fresh demands, urging upon him the dismissal of his lately-appointed grand vizier, and the elevation to that office of Mithad Pasha—of that Mithad of whom he vainly endeavoured to get rid by sending him to Broussa, whom he, with no better success, tried to satisfy by appointing to a place in the Cabinet as a minister without portfolio, and who will now be palmed upon him, with his new-fangled Constitutional notions of a deliberative council and a responsible Ministry.

France, according to a telegram from Berlin, is greatly disturbed at the course taken by England on the subject of the Note prepared as the result of the Berlin conference. Repeated application has been made by the Duc Decazes to Lord Derby to reconsider his determination, the admission of France having been given in the belief that England also accepts the conclusions arrived at.

The following is an extract from a letter written by a native Syrian Christian:—"The fearful catastrophe in Salonica has created a great excitement in the whole of Syria among the Moslems, especially at Damascus, Beyrout, Hama, Tripoli, and other places. The Moslems are openly threatening the Christians with a renewal of the former massacres, and we Christians are anxiously looking for protection from our English friends and fellow-Christians in other countries of Europe."

According to a letter from St. Petersburg published in the *Pall Mall Gazette* the feeling among the Russian people is so strong in favour of some sort of intervention on behalf of the Christians of Turkey that the Czar can no longer safely disregard it. However much he may be opposed personally to any step that might lead to war—and there is little doubt that if he were left to follow his own inclinations he would let the Christians of Turkey take care of themselves—he cannot disregard the universal cry of the nation, and he will be obliged to act, whether he wishes it or not.

Subscriptions are continually pouring in from all parts of the country to be employed either in supplying food to refugees or in buying munitions of war for the combatants. These subscriptions have become so general that they are often asked for—or, in reality, levied—in a semi-official kind of way. I know an American lady who, when getting her passport countersigned in the Chancellerie of the Governor of Moscow, was told, upon receiving her change out of a ten-ruble note, that five rubles had been retained for the Herzegovinian insurgents: this, although she had never been even asked whether she wished to give anything or not. She could, of course, have insisted upon receiving her full change, and have compelled them to give it; but, as she was rather amused at the impudence of the idea, and besides was very willing to contribute something in aid of the refugees, she consented to the extortion without making any trouble. This, it should be remembered, occurred in the Chancellerie of the Governor of Moscow. These subscriptions, often levied and collected by functionaries of the Government, are straws that show which way the wind blows in official circles, and would seem to indicate that, whether the Czar wishes it or not, his own agents are doing all they can to aid the insurgents.

There will soon be a very formidable fleet of war

ships of various nations in Besika Bay, which is a sheltered inlet near the supposed site of Old Troy, and the entrance to the Dardanelles. The British squadron there, or soon expected, will comprise the Devastation, Monarch, Iron Duke, Triumph, Hercules, Sultan, Invincible, Rupert, Swiftsure, Raleigh, and others—in all, a naval force numbering at least 5,600 men and officers, with 125 heavy guns, under the command of Admiral Drummond. Germany will have in the *Egean* Seas nine vessels in all, containing 2,209 men trained to use the Mauser rifle, and having land guns as well as their regular armaments. Four of these, after taking in supplies of coals and provisions, left Plymouth Sound on Saturday for the Mediterranean. The Russian squadron will, it is said, comprise but five ships, of which the Petropovloski and the Svetland are about the finest. The French and Italians have also some vessels at Salonica or in Besika Bay; also the Austrians.

It is stated that 100 tons of gunpowder and 1,000,000 small-arm cartridges have just been despatched from the Royal Arsenal to Gibraltar and Malta and the fleet in the Mediterranean, and that there is much activity in the victualling-yard at Deptford.

Since Friday afternoon insurances effected at Lloyd's were made to cover war risk.

The *Times* City article on Monday contains the following:—"The latest news from Turkey appears to signify that the end of both her borrowing and her paying has at last been reached." It is stated that the coupons which have been deferred from April and the July coupons will not be paid.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The estimated French expenditure for the year is 108,000,000*l.*, of which some forty millions sterling are for debt.

Prince (Jerome) Napoleon has selected as his seat in the Chamber of Deputies, a place on the right benches behind the Bonapartists.

Sir Charles Reed, addressing the Centennial judges at Philadelphia on Thursday, declared the exhibition to be unparalleled.

The French Government, it is said, demands 600,000 *fr.* (24,000*l.*), as compensation for the widow and orphans of M. Moulin, assassinated at Salonica.

The new Spanish constitution has passed the Lower House of the Congress. It is retrogressive on three points—liberty of the subject, toleration, and education.

Colonel Sandford has telegraphed from Philadelphia that, at a meeting of more than three hundred commissioners and judges on Wednesday evening, Her Majesty's health on her birthday was received with great enthusiasm.

According to a Paris telegram, forty-four corporations of workmen have decided not to accept any Government subvention towards their expenses to the Philadelphia exhibition, as it is to be granted subject to the condition that the delegates are to be elected by the Government.

GENERAL GARIBALDI has been prevented from starting for Caprera by temporary indisposition. Yielding to Ministerial and friendly pressure, he withholds his resignation, trusting to the commencement of the promised Tiber works.

GENERAL SCHENCK.—The Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives at Washington has presented a report on General Schenck's connection with the Emma Mine Company. The report condemns the ex-Minister's action in becoming a director and his operations in connection with the shares of the vendors as "ill-advised, unfortunate, and incompatible with his position as a Minister of the United States."

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.—The whole number of delegates in the Republican National Convention is 732, of whom Blaine has 265; Bristow, 121; Morton, 116; Conkling, 69; Hartranft, 58; Hayes, 48; Jewell, 12; leaving about forty yet unselected. Baine's nomination is now regarded as quite probable. He will get considerable strength from Pennsylvania, where many delegates will decline being transferred to Conkling, and he also will get support from Ohio, pledged to Hayes, and Connecticut pledged to Jewell.

BELGIAN POLITICS.—The Chamber of Deputies has disapproved of the treaty entered into with Holland in regard to the Dutch port of Terneuzen, by fifty-eight to forty-two votes. This result is due chiefly to the fact that the deputies for Antwerp—all Clericals—voted against the Clerical Ministry with a view to the approaching elections at Antwerp, in order to try to preserve their seats in the Chamber. M. Maion, the Belgian Minister of Finance, has had a long interview with the King, the result of which is understood to have been a decision that the Cabinet should remain in power until the elections, which are fixed for next month, shall have been held. The session has been closed.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL FESTIVAL AT CRYSTAL PALACE.—We understand that the London Sunday-school Choir will hold their summer festival at the Crystal Palace on June 14. A choir of 5,000 voices, representing 120 schools of all denominations, will carry out a programme of a most pleasing character, under the direction of Mr. Luther Hinton, Mr. Horncastle accompanying, and Mr. J. Harper performing the trumpet obligato. We are informed that tickets may be obtained of Mr. Barnard, 29, Canton-street, Poplar, E.

Epitome of News.

Her Majesty's birthday was officially celebrated on Saturday, the recent return of the Prince of Wales from India being everywhere made the occasion of a special demonstration of public rejoicing. In the morning the ceremony of "trooping the colours" took place in St. James's Park, and was witnessed by the Princess of Wales, Queen Mary of Hanover, the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the Duchess of Teck, and Prince Louis Napoleon. In the evening the customary banquets were given by the ministers and the great officers of State, and illuminations were general, both in the City and in the West-end. At Dover, Aldershot, and other places there were commemorations of the event. In Phoenix Park, Dublin, there was a grand military review, and many houses in the city were decorated with flags.

A thanksgiving service for the safe return of the Prince of Wales from India was celebrated on Saturday afternoon in St. Paul's Cathedral. It was choral throughout.

The ironclad Sultan, commanded by the Duke of Edinburgh, left Spithead on Saturday for the Mediterranean. On the same day the yacht Pandora, Captain Allen Young, having shipped letters and despatches for the Arctic Expedition, left Portsmouth on her voyage.

On Friday the Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Empress Eugénie and Prince Louis Napoleon at Camden Place, Chislehurst.

The Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, is gazetted a Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, and Colonel A. E. Anson, Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Penang, is gazetted to a companionship of the same Order.

It is announced that there will not be any more drawing-rooms or levées this season. There will be two state balls and two concerts at Buckingham Palace during June and July.

The roll of the British army has received two ornamental additions. The Queen has appointed her cousin, the Duke of Cumberland (ex-King of Hanover), to be a general in the army; and the Crown Prince of the suppressed kingdom receives a colonelcy. Her Majesty has also appointed the Duke of Edinburgh to be one of her naval aides-de-camp.

It is reported that the Duke of Connaught will shortly be married. It is understood that the prince's choice has fallen upon one of his cousins, the daughter of the ex-King of Hanover, a lady whose personal attractions and mental attributes are just now the theme of praise.

Mr. Gladstone stated, in a letter read on Friday at a meeting of the bondholders of the Imperial Ottoman Loan of 1854, that he should think it his duty, unless circumstances caused an alteration in his views, strongly to support the claim of the bondholders to the support of the British Government by every means short of force.

The *John Bull* learns that it is considered desirable that two secretaries should be attached to the Royal Commission that will be appointed under the provisions of Mr. Walpole's Bill with regard to the University of Cambridge. We believe that Mr. Arthur Westmorland, LL.D., Fellow of Jesus, will be selected to act in Cambridge, and that Mr. Henry Davidson, late Fellow of Trinity Hall, will discharge the duties of secretary in London.

A movement is on foot in Manchester to place a statue of Mr. John Bright in the Town-hall.

In answer to a request for Her Majesty's patronage for a bazaar in aid of a Wesleyan Chapel at Kenworth, near Dunstable, the following letter was received by the applicant from Sir T. M. Biddulph. The application had been addressed to the Empress Victoria:—"Buckingham Palace, May 17th, 1876.—Sir T. M. Biddulph is desired to acknowledge Mr. —'s letter addressed to the Empress Victoria, and to say that the title is not applicable to the Queen. The Queen is unable to subscribe to purely local objects."

At a meeting, on Wednesday, of the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1881, the Prince of Wales in the chair, it was resolved to devote part of the surplus funds (100,000*l.*, it is understood) to the erection of a Library of Science at South Kensington. The Royal Commissioners also took into consideration the rapid growth of science schools in the chief provincial towns of the kingdom, and determined to devote a considerable sum for the purpose of enabling successful scholars in these schools to obtain the advantage of scientific teaching in the metropolitan and kindred provincial institutions.

The election for Cork on Thursday resulted in the defeat of the Nationalists and Home Rulers. The numbers were:—Goulding (Conservative), 1,297; Daly (Home Ruler), 1,168; Lane (Home Ruler), 841. Majority for Goulding, 129. This is the gain of a seat to the Conservatives. Over 800 Liberals abstained from voting.

The Challenger, Captain Thomson, arrived at Portsmouth on Friday, having completed her voyage of scientific exploration round the world. She left Spithead on December 21, 1872, Captain Nares being then in command. On his appointment to the command of the Arctic Expedition he was succeeded by Captain Thomson. The total length of the voyage has been 68,184 miles.

Mr. Henry Kingsley, brother of the late Canon Kingsley, and well known himself as a novelist, died on Wednesday in his forty-sixth year. In 1869 he became editor of the *Edinburgh Daily Review*, and while connected with that paper he went to the seat of war in France, and was present at the battle of

Sedan. He soon afterwards abandoned his connection with the newspaper press, and returned to novel-writing.

It is stated that orders have been received at the Victualling-yard, Deptford, for a large supply of naval stores to be prepared for transmission to Malta at an early date.

Under the will of the late Mr. Howard Haywood, 30,000*l.* has been bequeathed to the town of Burslem for charitable purposes. It is intended to devote 20,000*l.* of this money to the erection of a hospital and dispensary, 5,000*l.* to the endowment of a ward for Burslem patients in the North Staffordshire Infirmary, and the remaining 5,000*l.*, to form a fund to be invested, and the interest to be devoted to sending convalescents to the seaside, providing nurses for the poor, and supplying the sick poor with suitable food.

The *Serapis* was paid off on Wednesday morning at Portsmouth. Her crew get a month's holiday.

It was stated before Vice-Chancellor Malins, on Thursday, that a "young nobleman" had given acceptances for 6,000*l.*, to some Jew money-lenders, in consideration of 6*l.*, in cash. The bills were ordered to be brought into court.

The Rev. Frederick Arnold, B.A., a clergyman who was at one time a frequent contributor to the periodicals of the Religious Tract Society, brought an action against the *Record* for an alleged libel contained in a review of his book, "Our Bishops and Deans." The jury found a verdict for the defendant; and since then the pertinacious Mr. Arnold has been equally unsuccessful in an endeavour to have the verdict set aside, so that he might have a new trial. The course he took was the less excusable as the *Record* declined to saddle him with its costs in the first trial.

It is stated that the complaints of London tradesmen, &c., as to the general dulness of trade are loud and general.

At the meeting of the select committee on Post-office telegraphs held on Tuesday last week, Mr. Lovell, of the Press Association, said the changes proposed by the Postmaster-General would increase the cost of telegraphing news fourfold. Mr. Saunders, of the *Central News*, said that small towns with one newspaper would be the greatest sufferers by the proposed change. If the new arrangements were carried out, he would have to pay 26,000*l.* more per annum to the Post Office. Another witness, Mr. Harper, of Huddersfield, gave evidence to the effect that when the transfer of the telegraphs to the Government took place it was understood that, inasmuch as the Press work yielded a profit to the old companies, the work was to be carried on by the Government at least as cheaply. The Act was passed on this understanding, and it worked well for six years, notwithstanding that the highest charge was somewhat in excess of those of the old companies.

A public meeting, convened to promote the voluntary closing of shops on Sundays, was held on Thursday at the Shoreditch Town Hall, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair. Upon the motion of Lord Ebury a resolution was carried describing Sunday trading as unnecessary and detrimental to the moral, social, and physical well-being of those who are engaged in it.

Mr. Chadwick, M.P., presented to the town of Macclesfield, on Saturday, a free library at a cost of 5,000*l.*

An attempt has been made to sink the ironclad *Caledonia* at Devonport, which is being temporarily used as a naval training-ship, and has 500 boys on board. The leave of the boys had been stopped for the misconduct of some among them, and there was, in consequence, much discontent. Early on Thursday morning water was found to be coming into the ship rapidly, and signals for assistance were made. There were several feet of water in the hold, and after the pumps had been at work vigorously for some time, it was discovered that a valve had been opened under conditions which made it impossible that it could have been accidental. This was stopped, and the ship pumped dry. A court of inquiry is to be held.

Messrs. Christie and Manson sold on Saturday the second portion of the Wynu-Ellis collection of pictures, which included all the pictures by the Dutch and Flemish masters not selected by the director and trustees of the National Gallery. The total sum received for the 156 pictures was 10,380*l.*

The official inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the late Mr. Bravo of Balham have been brought to a conclusion. After a full investigation, nothing has transpired which gives the slightest hint as to the origin of this mysterious occurrence beyond what is already known. The report of the Solicitor to the Treasury is to be immediately presented to the Home Secretary.

The Epping Forest Fnd Committee made the usual annual excursion through the Forest on Saturday. A number of literary and scientific gentlemen were among the party.

The annual meeting of the Sunday Society, which has been instituted with a view to advocate the opening of museums, art galleries, libraries, aquariums, and gardens on Sundays, was held on Saturday afternoon at Freemasons' Tavern. Mr. J. Heywood, F.R.S., the president of the society, occupied the chair, and among those present were the Rev. Septimus Hansard, M.A., Mr. T. Chatfield Clarke, Mr. Holyoake, Mr. M. D. Conway, Professor Sheldon Amos, and Mr. Burt, M.P. Letters expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting were read from Mr. Fawcett, M.P.,

Mr. Goldsmid, M.P., Mr. Leatham, M.P., Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., Lord E. Fitzmaurice, M.P. Mr. Cowen, M.P., Sir C. Dilke, M.P., the Hon. Auberon Herbert, Professor Huxley, Monsignor Capel, and the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie. Resolutions approving of the objects of the society were passed, and a memorial was adopted urging the desirability of allowing the loan collection of scientific objects in South Kensington to be seen and described on at least one Sunday afternoon before the close of the exhibition.

At the annual meeting of the Victoria Philosophical Institute, held at the Society of Arts, Adelphi, on Monday evening a purse of 100*l.*, a handsome tea service and a tray, in solid silver, were presented by the Institute to Captain F. Petrie, the hon. secretary, in recognition of the very energetic and valuable services he had rendered to the society as its hon. secretary for the last five years and a half. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided, and the address was delivered by Professor Birks, of Cambridge. The society now numbers 690 members.

Miscellaneous.

MASKELYN and COOK continue to fill the Egyptian Hall daily and nightly with their mysterious performances, the mysteriousness of which seems to defy the keenest observation of the cleverest lookers-on. The automaton *Psycho* plays at whist, spells, makes arithmetical calculations, and imitates handwriting with a coolness and a mechanical accuracy which half irritate, as well as amuse, the baffled spectator. The imitations of the alleged tricks of spiritualists are very entertaining and altogether incomprehensible.

THE ALEXANDRA PALACE.—Last Saturday was a special day on the northern heights, in honour of the Queen's birthday. Besides the ordinary attractions, there was a performance of Gay's well-known *Beggars' Opera*, which must have given special pleasure to persons who have attained a certain age; inasmuch as it recalled the sensations of a former time, when some of the songs were great favourites with the public. The performance was a very spirited one; the only disappointment being occasioned by the absence of Mr. Sims Reeves, who was to have sustained the part of Captain Macheath. Mr. Wilford Morgan, who has a rich tenor voice, was an admirable substitute. At dark there was a display of fireworks, which, so far as the comfort of the spectators was concerned, was a little interfered with by damp weather.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT. ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—This popular entertainment, the oldest and best of its kind, continues to be as attractive as ever. It is marked by elegance, vivacity, and wit; it sparkles with allusions to the follies of the age, which it unsparingly condemns; and it is characterised by a tone to which the most fastidious could not possibly take exception. An *Indian Puzzle* is rather too much of a puzzle, the plot being rather intricate; still it serves to bring out and display to the greatest advantage the resources of the company. *Grump's Menage* is simpler, but none the less effective. It abounds in situations of the most amusing kind. The scenery is good, and the dresses are superb. The best thing that can be said of the entire performance is that it is worthy of the reputation of Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, and it is adapted to give an hour's thorough relaxation.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER AND THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—At the annual conference of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, held at Oxford on Friday, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—

That this conference hereby records its strong opinion that Lord Sandon's Education Bill is an unsatisfactory measure. The permissive nature of the compulsory provisions and the failure to provide for the education of children who reside beyond two miles from existing schools, will render the bill to a large extent abortive; while the proposals to reimpose taxation for sectarian purposes, and to place compulsory powers in the hands of boards from which labourers are excluded by a property qualification, are unjust and unreasonable. This conference, therefore, renews its demand for a measure of free secular compulsory education with school boards in every district.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY TOURIST FARES.—The Midland Company have just issued the revised list of tourist fares for the coming season, which contains several important alterations, not only in the fares, but in the length of time for which the tickets are available. The monthly tickets have been entirely abolished, or rather superseded by a system of tickets available for two calendar months, and even these can be extended on payment of a small additional charge. The third-class fares have been subjected to little change, but the first-class tickets, have in several instances been increased in price, and greatly reduced in others. The opening of the new line to Carlisle has had a very material effect upon the tourist fares in that quarter. The first class fare last season was 49*s.*, but it is only 40*s.*, at the present time. The third class fares to Carlisle remain the same, 22*s.* Tourists to Scotland will be able to get to their destination at a cheaper rate than they have been able to do previously.

VIVISECTION.—A well-attended conference on vivisection was held last week, at the Offices of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, under the presidency of the Earl of Harrowby. The Cruelty to Animals Bill, 1876, founded on the recommendations of the Royal

Commission, and introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl of Carnarvon, having been considered, the following resolutions were adopted:—(1.) That the principles of the seven sub-clauses of the third clause, forbidding the infliction of pain during or by experiments on animals, and the illustration of lectures given to students by means of experiments on animals, has the hearty approval of this conference. (2.) That the provisos of the third clause, three of which permit pain under certain exceptions and regulations, cannot be accepted by societies founded for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and this conference, therefore, respectfully beg the Government to consider the same. (3.) That in the event of painful experiments being permitted on any animal under exceptions and regulations provided by the bill, it is the opinion of this conference that the provisions of clause 5, giving special protection to dogs and cats, should be extended to horses, asses, and mules. (4.) That the provisions of clause 9, for making known the results of experiments, are, in the opinion of this conference, incomplete, and should be enlarged in accordance with the suggestions of the 14th section of the society's bill placed before the Royal Commission, particularly with a view to prevent unnecessary repetition of experiments. (5.) That, in the opinion of this conference, it is desirable to give a power of arrest in clause 13, especially in the event of offenders refusing to give their names and addresses, and to increase the amount of penalty of such clause; without power of arrest the offender could not be punished at all as provided."

Cleanings.

The Boston *Congregationalist* is opposed to the metric system, because it does not want to have the revised version read: "Nor do men light a candle and put it under a hectolitre."

A sale of fifteen Cremona violins, the property of a gentleman, took place in London on Thursday, and realised 2,682*l.* One of the instruments, by Joseph Guarnerius, sold for 630*l.*, and two by Stradivarius realised 240 guineas each.

Whittier sent this response recently to a request for his autograph:—

Our lives are albums, written through
With good or ill, with false or true;
And as the blessed angels turn
The pages of our years,
God grant they read the good with smiles,
And blot the ill with tears!

An honest farmer was invited to attend a party at the village doctor's one evening, when there was music, vocal and instrumental. On the following morning he met one of the guests, who said, "Well, farmer, how did you enjoy yourself last night? Were not the quartette excellent?" "Why, really sir, I can't say," said he, "for I didn't taste 'em; but the pork chops were the finest I ever ate!"

"Uncle Jemmy," said a Yankee blade to one of the best old gentlemen that lived or died, "I am told that you are very fond of apple dumplings." "Why," said the patriarch, "when I lived in Virginia, I liked them better than anything in the world, and could eat eighteen or nineteen of them at a time; but some how since I came to Georgia, my appetite has failed me, and I can never eat more than fourteen or fifteen before they begin to clog up my stomach."

LEAVING THE PARSON TO PROVIDENCE.—One of Serjeant Ballantine's funny stories is going the rounds. It is *apropos* of Mr. Norwood's Bill rendering barristers amenable to actions for negligence when they do not appear in a case for which they have received fees. The serjeant was boasting in a railway carriage of his numerous cases. Only a little while ago, he said, he had two on at the same moment—a divorce case and an action brought by a clergyman. "What did you do?" was the question. "Well," said the serjeant, "I fought the divorce case and left the clergyman to Providence." "And the result?" "I won my case," said Serjeant Ballantine, proudly. "And we lost ours," said a clergyman who was seated unnoticed in the same compartment.

THE PERILS OF RINKING.—The evidence given at an inquest held on Wednesday, at Clapham, on the remains of an unfortunate gentleman who was killed at a skating rink, is worthy of attention by those who engage in this fascinating but deadly amusement. The deceased, it was stated, was accustomed to "rinking," and it was not by any want of skill on his part that he met with the accident that caused his death. Some one of the other rinkers skated against him, and knocked him down. He felt much shaken and hurt, but soon recovered enough to go on skating. He had, however, received a concussion of the spine; two days later he lost the use of his limbs, and ultimately died of the injury. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and the coroner remarked that the wonder was more fatal accidents did not occur from rinking. If all the accidents that have occurred at rinks were tabulated and published, there can be little doubt that life insurance offices would demand extra premiums from rinkers. There are perils by land and perils by sea, but greater than these are the perils by the rink. It is, however, the novelty of the danger which no doubt constitutes its great charm; and this, again, is enhanced by the possibility of disfigurement as well as death, for the nose is often broken even when the thread of life is not snapped. —*Pall Mall Gazette*.

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- X. Her Dearest Foe. By Mrs. Alexander, Author of "The Winding O'." &c. Chapters XXXVI., XXXVII., and XXXVIII.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1876.

SUMMARY.

THE fall of the Sultan's favourite Grand Vizier, Mahmoud Pacha, has been speedily followed by the dethronement of the Sultan himself, after a disastrous reign of fifteen years. The deposition of Abdul Aziz took place yesterday morning by means of a pacific revolution initiated by the Softas, who obliged the fallen Sovereign to sign a deed of abdication, and then removed him to the old palace in Stamboul. His nephew, and legitimate heir, Murad Effendi, who has for some time been a virtual prisoner, was released from a cellar to mount the Ottoman throne amid general enthusiasm, and the event is to be celebrated by a three days' festival. The new Sultan is under forty years of age, and is said to be a man of some culture, and to be more imbued with Western ideas than his predecessor. There seems to be no doubt that his chief adviser will be Midhat Pacha, well known for his reforming energy, and that the new sovereign has accepted three important points—the institution of a permanent assembly of notables, the abolition of the seraglio, and a reduction of the Imperial Civil List. For the present, at all events, the revolution is regarded with satisfaction by Mahomedans and Christians alike. The deposed Sultan had alienated all his friends.

There is reason to hope that the deposition of Abdul Aziz will have a favourable effect in bringing about a pacific solution of the Eastern Question. The French Cabinet, which has rather compromised itself by precipitate adherence to the Berlin Memorandum, has promptly instructed its ambassador at Constantinople to urge the Porte, under the new circumstances which have arisen, immediately to enter into negotiations with the insurgents, and spontaneously make the concessions judged equitable and necessary without any external pressure or menace. The question of paramount interest is the course which Russia will now pursue. According to a St. Petersburg telegram the news have been received there "as an opportune occasion for the peaceful and honourable settlement desired by all the Powers." But it is to be borne in mind that the recent revolution was as much directed against Russian ascendancy at Constantinople as against a subservient Grand Vizier and an incapable Sovereign. Prince Gortschakoff can work with more effect upon the insurgent provinces than upon the Turkish Divan, and the announcement that an offensive and defensive alliance had been concluded between Serbia, Montenegro, Roumania, and Greece is a sure sign that Russia has been really bent upon bringing about the destruction of the Turkish Empire. That policy has now received a check, and should it be condemned at Berlin may, perhaps, be for a time abandoned.

The chief feature of the week's Parliamentary news has been the determined opposition to the Commons Bill, unsupported by the front Opposition bench, on the part of Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, and other Liberals below the gangway, which, though it has considerably delayed the measure, has not as yet induced the Government to accept any substantial modifications. The Merchant Shipping Bill has been read a third time and passed on to the Upper House; and on Thursday there was a further attempt on the part of Mr. Hodgson to alter the financial plan of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by an amendment in favour of an income-tax of twopence halfpenny instead of threepence in the pound. On Sir Stafford Northcote's assurance that the proposal would create a deficit, the House rejected it by a majority of 85 votes (227 to 142). Last night, as stated elsewhere, Mr. Trevelyan's resolution in favour of household suffrage in the counties was rejected by 264 to 165 votes, prior to which there was the usual discussion on the motion to adjourn over the Derby Day. This was opposed by Sir Wilfrid Lawson on the ground that it was unworthy of the Legislature to give formal recognition to a debasing, money-getting sport, and by Mr. Bright as encouraging an amusement which was the cause of an enormous amount of evil and vice in every large town. The minority (118) was unexpectedly large, and is perhaps a sign that the objectionable practice of the House of Commons adjourning over the Derby Day will ere long be abandoned.

It will be seen from the resolutions adopted by the National Education League and the Nonconformist Committees, as well as from the opinions expressed by our contemporaries, and

letters published elsewhere, that Lord Sandon's Education Bill does not gain upon further acquaintance. Some of its most objectionable features are pointed out in our article in another column, and are likely to be thoroughly examined during the Whitsuntide recess.

The defeat of the Belgian Cabinet, which was raised to power by the Ultramontanes, though it has had little opportunity of furthering their objects, is too important an event to be passed over in silence. The Parliament has been dissolved, and the Government hold office pending the general election. The Liberals are confident of their ability to secure a majority in the new Chamber, and their accession to office after a lengthened interval of exclusion, would be a heavy blow to the Vatican policy in a State where the Romish Church has so long been in the ascendant.

THE FORCE OF A NEGATIVE.

THAT little word "No" has sometimes contained within itself incalculable possibilities. It is as an eyelet-hole through which, when the eye is applied to it in the right position, a vast and indefinite expanse of space may be described. It frequently does more to baffle previous plans than the mightiest torrent of eloquent invective would effect. When it comes upon men as a surprise, and especially when it is maintained with unwavering decision, although not in itself a revealer of secrets, it not seldom occasions the uncovering of what was hidden. Earl Derby's "No" to the Berlin Memorandum has operated very much after this fashion. It seems not to have been anticipated by either of the three Imperial Powers, whose chancellors and subordinate diplomatists met at the German capital about a fortnight since to decide what further should be done towards quieting for the present the Eastern question. It would seem to have been taken for granted by them that the adhesion of England to the second Note to the Porte would never be refused in the face of that concentration of European authority which it represented. The "No" came, however, from the Foreign Office. Not without abundant courtesy, not unsupported by strong reasons, but still it came. "Oh," it was said, at Vienna, St. Petersburg, and elsewhere, "England's negative can relate merely to the form in which the Memorandum was cast." Nevertheless, it was persisted in, and with such show of determination as to produce upon the Powers a conviction that no mere alteration of its form would break its force. The next observation made upon it was that it was of no consequence. England's abstention in this case did but illustrate the isolation of her foreign policy. The Powers will proceed to action upon the basis of their Note without her. Hitherto, however, they have not proceeded. Their Memorandum has not yet been formally presented to the Porte. Very likely it will be. But Earl Derby's "No" will, to a large extent unquestionably neutralise its moral authority. Yet, on the whole, public opinion has come round to an admission that there is something in it—something worthy of further consideration—something which may not improbably leave an abiding impression upon one or more of the five Powers that have consented to pledge their responsibility for the general policy which the Memorandum comprised.

The despatch in which Earl Derby signified the purpose of England is not yet before the world, although the drift of it is no doubt known with tolerable accuracy. One is deeply interested, therefore, in conjecturing whence, from a diplomatic point of view, the "No" proceeded. Did it mean that England will remain an impassive spectator of the solution under Russian auspices?—for there can be no doubt that the influence of Russia was dominant in the recent conference of the Eastern Question. The assembling of the augmented Mediterranean squadron in Besika Bay would appear to be intended as a warning to the other Powers that England has no intention of abrogating her European position in regard to this question. Right or wrong, it is made tolerably evident that, should the time come for making her voice heard, she will make it heard. But what, it may be asked, is her policy? What would she propose as a substitute for that indicated by the Memorandum of the three Imperial Powers? Is she prepared to revert to the now exploded policy of 1853? It is incredible, we think, that she will, if driven to war, once more go to war in defence of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire. Nevertheless, she may rightly refuse to participate in demands upon Turkey, a refusal of which by the latter would greatly irritate the exacting Powers, and acquiescence in which would go far towards draining her of her remaining vitality. In the present condi-

tion of Turkey, an armistice of two months between herself and her rebellious provinces could not fail to inflict upon her a financial strain which she is wholly incompetent to bear. It would bleed her at every pore, whilst it would leave almost untouched the insurgents who have cast off her hated authority. Lord Derby probably sees that, even if put into force, it would avail nothing—or perhaps something less than nothing—for the settlement of the dispute. It would go far to break down such strength as Turkey possesses, without resulting in any permanent arrangement of the difference between herself and her Christian subjects.

Does the noble Foreign Secretary then place himself in opposition to the design aimed at by the insurgent rayahs? It is to be hoped not. Public opinion in this country would not bear it. Whilst deprecating the course of action manifestly unfair to the Porte, and refusing by a sort of underhand intervention to assist in destroying the authority of the Sultan, Lord Derby probably sympathises with the insurgents so far as to acknowledge the intolerable grievances to which they have been subjected by Turkish misrule. In what way he may best display that sympathy we do not know, but he has perhaps come to the conclusion that neither would it be right, nor in the end profitable, to attempt it by a feigned acquiescence in a course of action which he does not approve. To some extent he may sympathise with Austria. On the other hand, he may decline to act upon the basis of a mere suspicion, however well founded it may be, of the ultimate designs of Russia. It is evident that he prefers, for the present at least, to hold himself in suspense, and it is just possible that while by doing so he checks precipitancy on the part of the other Powers, he may be urging the adoption of a policy similar to that which was applied to the case of Serbia some years ago, and which has proved entirely successful—namely, the erection of the insurgent provinces into automatic States under the suzerainty of the Sultan, whereby both parties might be benefited. At any rate, such a policy has the advantage of being commended by experience.

We must wait for further information. We have great confidence in the prudence as well as the foresight of our Foreign Secretary. What he does we are confident will be done above board. He is little likely, we apprehend, to be circumvented by diplomatic wiles, and as little likely to practise them, in furtherance of any policy which he may have made up his mind to support. One thing is clear, that he has force enough of character to decline following blindly where he does not see his way. We admit that the present position of the Eastern Question is just now an extremely critical one. It may, or it may not, result in fearful conflict. But, at any rate, it is so far a gratifying reflection to the English people that their Foreign Secretary should represent their wishes in a tone as frank as it is fair, and as consistent with the hitherto ascertained facts of the crisis as it seems to be cautious and wise.

THE LIBERAL PARTY.

BOTH in Parliament and out-of-doors the Liberal party has made itself felt during the week. The remarkable conference in favour of the assimilation of the county and borough franchise, Mr. Trevelyan's motion on the subject in the House of Commons last night, and the speeches of Earl Granville and the Marquis of Hartington in connection with the laying of the foundation-stone of the City Liberal Club on Monday, are suggestive events. They have occurred at a time when the Government have lost prestige; when, though still maintaining their pristine majority, a belief in their feebleness is spreading; when their extravagant style of administration is palpably felt in the pocket of the tax-payer; and when the inquiry is becoming very loud and ominous, what does the country gain by having a Tory Government? This session, at least, the Liberal party has been active in Parliament. In both Houses they acted with credit on the Burials question; they fought the Royal Titles Bill with remarkable vigour; they have discharged the duties of a regular Opposition with more method than in recent sessions; and they have left their mark upon current legislation—such as the Merchant Shipping Bill. But it would be useless to pretend that the Liberals have gained in popularity in proportion as their opponents have lost, or that the country is sighing for their return to power.

Nor does it appear that the Liberals are likely to gain much by such speeches as those delivered by their leaders on Monday night. Neither Lord Granville nor Lord Hartington

had any particular convictions or aspirations to express. Their tone was cautious and hesitating, if not altogether despairing. Neither perfunctory criticism of the policy of the Government, nor warnings of too precipitate action, nor hints as to the necessity of organisation and union, were adapted to revive confidence or inspire enthusiasm. Both probably felt that without any rallying cry, or any more dignified position than that of mild critics, it was useless to assume a definite attitude. There are no materials for a party manifesto, and hardly any question of importance as bearing on the future on which a decisive expression of opinion would not provoke some discord in the heterogeneous Liberal ranks. We can hardly blame their lordships. Neither the leaders nor their followers can as yet, nor are likely for some time to, agree upon a common programme. In the present position of things this is hardly to be bewailed.

Our columns abundantly record the extent to which the friends of religious equality are availing themselves of this golden opportunity, and we are quite confident that the latent force which has thus been generated will in due time become apparent in the field of practical politics. Another movement in favour of advanced reform is taking a similar course, and like the disestablishment question is gaining ground in the country. The conference of some eight hundred labourers' delegates, which assembled last week at the Memorial Hall, to give a moral support to Mr. Trevelyan's motion—men from every county of England, whose expenses were defrayed by local subscriptions, and whose earnestness was quite refreshing—is an event which even the most moderate Liberals cannot disregard. As is the case with the Liberation movement, it belies the oft-repeated assertion that the country is hopelessly sunk in political apathy.

If we remember aright, Lord Hartington did not feel himself able last year to support Mr. Trevelyan. He is now fain to acknowledge that the time is not far distant when the Legislature will be called upon to face the great question of Parliamentary reform; and his lordship expresses the hope that when it is dealt with, it will be taken in hand by the Liberal party rather than their opponents, and in a comprehensive and complete way. This, however, does not, it appears, imply that Lord Hartington is as yet prepared to give a direct support to Mr. Trevelyan's motion. The truth is coming to be recognised, and was emphasised at the Memorial Hall conference, that a mere extension of the county franchise would by itself be useless if not injurious to Liberal principles. Mr. Trevelyan has made his motion more "comprehensive" by including in it a redistribution of seats; but while he has thus made his platform more complete and thoroughgoing, he has indefinitely adjourned the prospect of success. Indeed, it seems to us, that Parliament would be quite as willing—if not more willing—to disestablish the Church of England than to consent to such a rearrangement of seats as would deprive the aristocracy and propertied classes of the virtual monopoly of the representation which they now enjoy.

Last night's debate on Mr. Trevelyan's motion was not encouraging. That it—that is, the first section, referring to the extension of the county franchise—should have been rejected by so large a majority as 89 was only to be expected. But the debate indicated that on this important question the Liberal party is as much divided as ever. Once again, after nine years' interval, Mr. Lowe and Mr. Bright, renewing their "ancient controversy," were in conflict on the subject of the Parliamentary franchise—the former furbishing up afresh the old arguments against reforms which would change the centre of political gravity in this country; and the latter contending that household suffrage would be as beneficial for counties as it had been for boroughs, but objecting to a formal affirmation of the necessity of a redistribution of seats, which the extension of the county franchise would render inevitable. After Mr. Lowe's speech, the Prime Minister needed to say little in opposition to the motion, but his eager recognition of the fact that the ratepaying householders in the counties are as competent to exercise the franchise beneficially as the same class in the towns, shows that the Conservative objections to the proposal are based not on principle, but on expediency, and that Mr. Disraeli will not, if he can help it, allow the question to be finally settled by his opponents. On a division Mr. Trevelyan obtained the support of 162 members, probably about two-thirds of the Liberal party in the House. Its leading members were as much divided as heretofore. The Marquis of Hartington, Sir W. Harcourt, and Sir Henry James, by staying away, showed that they have not yet

been converted to Mr. Trevelyan's policy, while Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Forster, and other ex-Ministers voted with the majority. Last night's incident is a commentary on the Liberal demonstration in the City on the preceding evening, and explains the reticence and depression of the two leading speakers at the Freemasons' Hall banquet. The Liberal party is still in the wilderness, and the prospect of their entrance into Canaan is, according to present appearances, very remote indeed. We can hardly, as we have said, mourn over this state of things. The timidity and divisions of the Liberal leaders are the opportunity of the rank-and-file; and while the front Opposition bench has nothing to offer, Advanced Reformers in Church and State below the gangway can without hindrance or embarrassment commend their several views to public support.

Literature.

MR. MACGAHAN'S ADVENTURES.*

Mr. MacGahan, who in his "Campaigning on the Oxus" (which is now before us in a fourth edition) showed such versatility and power in communicating the leading traits of strange peoples—Khivans, Turcomans, Kirghis, &c.—with a kindliness and freshness alike rare, now leads us into a very different region, where, in spite of trials and discomforts of an almost opposite order, he exhibits the same tact, humour, and quickness in seizing the attractive qualities of those amongst whom he is cast. In "Under the Northern Lights" he does not aim at imparting hard-and-fast geographical knowledge, though his book will be found not without value in that respect. It is rather the liveliness, the unwearying good spirits, the unquenchable ardour of curiosity and of humanity, which appear in this work that we are disposed to value it for. Mr. MacGahan himself advises readers who want information, pure and simple, to consult one or other of the "two hundred and fifty books that have been written on the Arctic Regions"—more especially recommending Mr. Clements Markham's "Threshold of the Unknown Region." "It only remains for me," he adds "to give a few pictures of the pleasant side of Arctic life—pictures hastily sketched on a voyage that was remarkable only for its dash and rapidity." Mr. MacGahan, as most of our readers must know, went with Captain Allen Young in the Pandora, combining the duties of an officer with those of correspondent of the *New York Herald*—functions which seem to combine well nowadays, both for the advantage of the persons first concerned and for the reading public in the second place.

Mr. MacGahan is quite right in his own characterisation of his book. It is a series of pleasant pictures. The first portion is made lively by the accounts of various adventures amongst the Eskimo, of whose habits and characters we have here a most entertaining and readable account. Mr. MacGahan seems to have been quite willing to linger among and to study that oddly-interesting people. But, though he does not think it beneath his dignity to chronicle the dancing and tea-parties at which he and others of the crew of the Pandora were present, and the flirtings into which some of them rather unwarrantably fell, he takes care to relieve that by graver matter. His passage on the dependence of the Eskimo on the seal, of which it would appear as though man in these regions had become a mere parasite, is exceedingly good; and better still, perhaps, the following, which may claim reflection:—

The Eskimos furnish an example of a race of men living under conditions corresponding exactly to those of that strange unknown glacial period during which Europe lay buried, for so many centuries, beneath a sea of ice. Scientific men say they may be classed with the races of the pre-historic age of ground stone tools, with the exceptional use of metals.

If this theory could be taken to mean that the Eskimos were separated from the rest of mankind during the pre-historic period, and that they have remained in the same condition in which they then were, the importance of the study of these people—their language, manners, customs, and ideas, could scarcely be over-estimated. We would have before us a living example of man, during that dim, mysterious period which preceded the era of authentic record, the invention of letters, and the birth of history, of which we have only dark and shadowy glimpses. We could study his spiritual tendencies and longings before any of the modern religions had produced their effect upon him; we could see what were his abstract ideas of justice before modern notions of right and wrong were established. We could measure his intellectual capacity; we could judge, perhaps, to what degree of

development the human mind had attained at that time; and we should have, as it were, a picture of the civilisation of that mysterious epoch—a living people who think, act, believe, and live as did the pre-historic man.

If this were true, and the theory could be taken to mean so much; if we were to judge of the pre-historic man by the modern Eskimo, I must express it as my opinion that the pre-historic man was not a bad sort of fellow at all, and that his civilised descendants have scarcely improved upon him. For the Eskimos in many things, as their domestic relations, their kindness to each other, the generous way in which those who have share, in times of scarcity, with those who have not, their care for children, their respect, love, and tenderness for the aged and infirm, prove themselves to be far in advance of more cultivated peoples.

And again:—

They have been converted to Christianity by the Dane, who established their authority throughout the whole of Greenland about a century ago. Nearly all can read and write their own language. There is no country in the world in which the schools that have been established in every village are better attended; and there are very few of the Greenland Eskimos who cannot read and write.

The introduction of intoxicating liquors has been prevented, and those acts of violence and oppression which in every other country have destroyed and degraded primitive races, have been here altogether unknown. This may be said to be the only case in which white men have not perpetrated the foulest wrongs on the natives of the countries they have subjected, the only instance in which they have treated their weaker brothers with any degree of justice. To their honour be it said, the Danes have always endeavoured to elevate and educate the natives, and they have refused to profit by selling them things which they thought might prove prejudicial to their health and wellbeing.

The chapter on "Eskimo Literature" is extremely interesting, but we cannot stay to deal with it particularly. We should not omit to mention how fine a sympathy Mr. MacGahan shows with animal life—especially with dog life. His sketch of "King," and of that animal's teachability and shrewd ways, is really worthy of a wider circle of readers than his book will most probably reach, as it is likely to aid in promoting that love of animals which does so much to refine and to elevate the young; and the same should be said of that touching concluding tragedy concerning Captain Young's hapless Eskimo dog. The anecdote of King and the bear is so good that we must make room for it:—

Bruin used to have a very disagreeable way, when chained up on the deck, of jumping at the dogs if they passed near him, with a savage roar, which was enough to shake the stoutest nerves. The other dogs were very much in dread of Bruin, and got out of his way without the slightest regard for appearances. The King, however, seemed to be frightened by mere noise, and when the bear leaped the length of his chain at him, refused to budge an inch. It is true he generally kept just out of reach of Bruin, and he often must have measured the distance with an accurate eye. Once, however, he missed his calculation, came a little too close, and the bear got a mouthful of his fur. Nothing daunted, the old fellow summoned the other dogs with a yelp, and was about making a general onslaught with his whole army, when Joe interfered and drove him off.

Afterwards, when we had put the bear in a cage, King lay down beside it, and Bruin caught his ear through the bars, and held it until obliged to let go by a blow over the snout. Two or three days afterwards the dogs were all playing upon the deck in the greatest good humour possible, the King with the rest, when he was suddenly seen to fly at the cage, and seize the bear by the ear. Bruin had lain down against the side of the cage to take a nap; his ear had come through between the bars, and the old monarch had seized the opportunity to be revenged.

Occasionally, we come on a really effective picture, showing that Mr. MacGahan has not neglected to form a good descriptive style—so valuable to a special correspondent. This is a picture of the Land of Desolation, and a reflection:—

There is something unaccountably oppressive in this Arctic universe. The immensity of these regions, their dreariness, their silent immobility that appears like the stillness of the grave, have a strangely depressing effect. They weigh upon the mind, and bear it down like some fearful incubus, like that half-waking, half-dreaming, indistinct consciousness of weight upon the chest felt in the oppression of nightmare.

I believe that to this depression of spirits is to be attributed—almost as much as to the lack of proper food—to the prevalence of scurvy in Arctic ships. The effects of it were plain and unmistakable on those of our men who were most impressionable and superstitious. They grew despondent and low-spirited, and went about their work in a half-hearted way, as though afraid to touch anything. Our petty officers grew over-cautious and timid. One of them, a most exemplary man in England, suddenly took to drink; and another went to bed, and remained there until we were far on our way home. Both these men, and others I could have pointed out, would inevitably have died had we wintered in the Arctic; while all of us, even the strongest and most buoyant, were affected by this mysterious influence.

Nature never smiles here. In sunshine or shadow, in light or shade, she is always gloomy and taciturn. When the sun comes out bright and warm, as it does sometimes, tingeing the bare, bleak rocks with a melancholy yellow, she is silent, sad, and mournful; when the grey leaden clouds are drawn over the sky like a dripping canopy, she is silent, sombre, threatening; always gloomy, stern, inexorable, implacable.

On the whole, we can honestly pronounce this book to be lively, readable, informing;

* *Campaigning on the Oxus, and the Fall of Khiva.* By J. A. MACGAHAN, correspondent of the *New York Herald*. Fourth and cheaper edition. (Sampson Low, Marston, and Co.)

Under the Northern Lights. (By the same publishers.)

and shall be glad if our words shall lead some readers, through it, to become better acquainted with the life that is lived "Under the Northern Lights"—with all the joy and sorrow, the pathos, passion, tragedy, and suffering, which are known there as well as in regions further south and sunnier.

"DANIEL DERONDA."

We have already noticed how, even to the earliest portions of the work, George Eliot communicates a touch of her old teaching, by suggesting very powerfully that Gwendolen, in getting her choice, should get her fate—her punishment. The Fourth Book shows that, in this respect, we had promised aright. Gwendolen marries Mr. Grandcourt, in spite of all her resolutions, and her promises given to Mrs. Glasher at that secret meeting, and no little skill is shown by the author in, as it were, arranging all the circumstances so as to set a *free course* before her. It seemed to be a hard thing to go out as governess to the bishop's daughters, and to bear the preliminary scrutiny of Mrs. Mompert and the vexatious intermeddlings afterwards; but all the hardness of that course lay on its face, whereas all the brightness was on the face of the course she clearly chose. But, as is George Eliot's wont, great use is made of secondary motives in compelling a certain course of action. Gwendolen's ambition that her mother should be provided for, and her admiration of Mr. Grandcourt's perfect manner, combine to change her resolutions in his favour at the last moment. Her fate is quickly upon her; no sooner is she married, than the Grandcourt diamonds (which had been in Mrs. Glasher's possession) are conveyed to her, but in a way and with such an effect as we cannot help thinking a rather serious flaw in the work. George Eliot has hitherto, for the most part, managed to convey her ideas of the relentless fate of life without too prominent an association of melodrama. Of all her former works most open to blame in this respect, we should be inclined to say that "Romola" is, particularly in the latter contact of Tito and Baldassare; but there we have a careful keeping apart of the two till the accelerating action seemed to demand it. Gwendolen, surrendering herself to an effusive and helpless outburst of feeling—the diamonds scattered about her on the floor—on reading "a poor woman's letter," even though it conveyed no kind of curse, would seem *wholly* out of keeping, were it not that a certain need of sympathy and sensitive dependence on the opinion of others is indicated as lying beneath her self-confidence, her calculation, and her coldness in the impression Deronda has made upon her. But this lies so far apart, and looks so like a purely exceptional impression, that it is hardly present to the reader's mind, as he wonders over this melodramatic revelation and its effect. And whilst we are speaking of the diamonds, we must say that the scene between Grandcourt and Mrs. Glasher, at Gadsmeere, when he demands the diamonds from her, is done with a direct and realistic power such as George Eliot has hardly ever surpassed—revealing by means of dialogue and action, the utter coldness, meanness, and shameless worthlessness of Grandcourt's nature—fully justifying the term that Deronda in his own mind applied to him—"the remnant of a human being." These diamonds are to be of no small account in this story as associated with Gwendolen's fate and as forming a link at once between her and Mrs. Glasher, and again between her husband and them both. And very cunningly has George Eliot shown in the Fifth Book the gradual alienation of husband and wife, proceeding in a certain connection with these diamonds (which Gwendolen would soon shrink from wearing, and is forced to wear by her husband's commanding request), and with the necklace which Daniel Deronda redeemed and returned to her at Leubronn. We can expect nothing now but growing suspicion between the two leading characters, rising at last into such dislike and hatred, as shall finally make companionship unbearable. Clearly, if it were not for the high tone of Deronda's character, the relation into which Gwendolen has passed, as seeking counsel and comfort from him, would suggest, as it suggested to Sir Hugo Mallinger, that Deronda was "playing with fire!" But this is, of course, too commonplace a complication for George Eliot to take up. The glimpses we have of the society around the newly-married pair are admirable; the talk is deliciously characteristic; and a strange fillip of expectant interest is aroused by the knowledge that fires are smouldering below all this smoothly polite talk and banter. The further sketches we have of the Meyricks

are full of quaint power—that little house at Chelsea will be memorable to English readers, for more, we fancy, than that it sheltered Mirah Lapidoth and was a centre of association to Deronda. Hans Meyrick—plain but gifted Hans—is clearly to become a new point of interest for us.

But what will probably be found of most absorbing interest to attentive readers of George Eliot is the strange, half-mystical relation in which Deronda finds himself to the old Jew, Mordecai, at the book shop. We should not wonder if it were to prove for Daniel somewhat as it did for Saul of old. When he went out to find traces of the friends of Mirah, he is probably on the way to find a new kingdom for himself, as well as traces of his own paternity. Anyway, that odd, old, and as it might seem, half-insane Jew, who touches on common personal matters as if they were the fulfilment of prophecies, and so clearly discerns that it was not need of money that led Deronda to pawn the ring, as to enable him to interpret the circumstances in favour of his own "prophetic soul," and who talks now like a weakling and now like a prophet, has not been put into the prominent position he holds in the end of the fifth book for nothing; and we wait with some anxiety for the next part, in order to follow him and Deronda further. The mixture of Jewish shrewdness with enthusiasm and high ideal forms something original in fiction, though there have been such Jews.

Some of the sketches we have of the Jewish family of Cohens, with whom Mordecai lodges, are done with a faithful pencil, and are clearly the result of a great deal of study; but the most original of all is, perhaps, that of little Jacob, in whom Deronda is deeply interested for other than æsthetic reasons. George Eliot has shown great power in painting children; Jacob Alexander Cohen, we think, is her most original effort.

Deronda took in the details [of the Cohen's parlour] by parenthetic glances while he met Jacob's peeping solicitude about the knife. He had taken pains to buy one with the requisites of the hook and white handle, and produced it on demand, saying:—

"Is that the sort of thing you want, Jacob?"

It was subjected to a severe scrutiny, the hook and blades were opened, and the article of barter with the corkscrew was drawn forth for comparison.

"Why do you like a hook better than a corkscrew?" said Deronda.

"'Cause I can get hold of things with a hook. A corkscrew won't go into anything but corks. But it's better for you, you can draw corks."

"You agree to change, then?" said Deronda, observing that the grandmother was listening with delight.

"What else have you got in your pocket?" said Jacob, with deliberate seriousness.

"Hush, hush, Jacob, love!" said the grandmother. And Deronda, mindful of discipline, answered:—

"I think I must not tell you that. Our business was with the knives."

Jacob next looked into his face scanningly for a moment or two, and apparently arriving at his conclusions, said gravely—

"I'll shoop," handing the corkscrew knife to Deronda who pocketed it with corresponding gravity.

Immediately the small son of Shem ran off to the next room, whence his voice was heard in rapid chat; and then ran back again—when, seeing his father enter, he seized a little velvet hat which lay on a chair and put it on to approach him. Cohen kept on his own hat, and took no notice of the visitor, but stood still while the two children went up to him and clasped his knees; then he laid his hands on each in turn and uttered his Hebrew benediction; whereupon the wife, who had lately taken the baby from the cradle, brought it to her husband, and held it under his outstretched hand, to be blessed in its sleep. For the moment Deronda thought that this pawnbroker, proud of his vocation, was not utterly prosaic.

Deronda's musings over Grandcourt, to which we have already referred, are worthy of fuller quotation. This is how he ends them:—

How can one feel anything else than pity for a young creature like that—full of unused life, ignorantly rash—hanging all her blind expectations on that remnant of a human being.

And George Eliot reflectively adds:—

Doubtless the phrase which Deronda's meditation applied to the bridegroom were the less complimentary for the excuses and pity in which it clad the bride. His notion of Grandcourt as a "remnant" was founded on no particular knowledge, but simply on the impression which ordinary polite intercourse had given him that Grandcourt had worn out all his natural healthy interest in things.

We are very pleased to meet Herr Klesmer again, and pleased that he has more hope of Mirah as an artist than he had of Gwendolen. His utter honesty delights us.

Some of the chapter-headings are, as is usual with George Eliot, full of thought and suggestiveness. Sometimes we are in doubt whether they are her own or quoted from some of the rare and rich old books, both English and German, with which she has so intimate an acquaintance. But as it is far easier for her to write a pregnant sentence than to seek for one elsewhere, we conclude that they are original. The following is not perhaps the best on that score; but we quote it because it has a very obvious practical reference to some social

elements at present claiming attention—as Colonel Du Cane, to pass to a very different order of authority, so well pointed out in his address to the Social Science Meeting at Brighton, when he even ventured on advocating change in the law so as to include certain of the "mighty marauders of the money-market" amongst the class he is officially most interested in. George Eliot's heading might have formed a text for his remarks to that end:—

Were uneasiness of conscience measured by extent of crime, human history had been different, and one should look to see the contriving of greedy wars and the mighty marauders of the money market in one troop of self-lacerating penitents with the mean robber and out-purse and the murderer that doth his butchery in small with his own hand. No doubt wickedness bath its rewards to distribute; but whose wins in this devil's game must needs be baser, more cruel, more brutal than the order of this planet will allow for the multitude born of woman, the most of these carrying a form of conscience—a fear which is the shadow of justice, a pity which is the shadow of love—that hindereth from the prize of serene wickedness, itself difficult of maintenance in our composite flesh.

Various textlets of prime quality are to be found scattered through the last two books, of which these are two samples:—

It is one thing to be resolute in placing oneself out of the question, and another to endure that others should perform that exclusion for us.

The most powerful movement of feeling with a liturgy is the prayer which seeks for nothing special, but is a yearning to escape from the limitations of our own weakness, and an invocation of all good to enter and abide with us; or else a self-oblivious lifting up of gladness, a *Gloria in excelsis* that such good exists; both the yearning and the exultation gathering their utmost force from the sense of communion in a form which has expressed them both, for long generations of struggling fellow-men.

ABBOTT'S NEW TESTAMENT.*

Of making many commentaries there is no end. And yet we seldom meet with a commentary which does not serve some special purpose. That much which is valueless has been written, and is being written, can scarcely be doubted. And that not a little is destined to a short and a very contracted life, must also be admitted. But after all, that which is not of much intrinsic worth often finds a class of readers to whom it renders no mean service. We do not say this by way of apology for the commentary now before us. It needs none. And if the future instalments of the work equal the first, it will be entitled to no mean place among modern expositions of the Divine Word. It does not need much reflection, however, to discern that the man who is well qualified to write on the gospels, is not necessarily equally qualified to write on the epistles. And a man may produce a good commentary on the synoptic gospels, and yet utterly fail in the exposition of John. We cannot, therefore, predict the future from the present. But of the volume before us we can speak in terms of almost unqualified commendation.

Mr. Lyman Abbott devotes nearly fifty closely printed pages, equal to one hundred of an ordinary octavo, to the usual subjects of an "Introduction," and discusses them as fully as the space will allow. Matters which require fuller consideration than can be given to them in expository notes, are discussed separately. We may instance the Temptation of our Lord in the Wilderness as an example. The various interpretations which have been given of this mysterious event are classified under six heads. 1. That no such event really occurred, but that Christ, in the form of a parable, of which He made Himself a central figure, taught His disciples how it is that temptations assail us all, and how we are to resist them. 2. That it is an historical narrative, but of a natural event; that the devil was a human tempter, or animated a human tempter, and offered the temptation through him. 3. That it is a vision or a dream, having its parallel in Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones, and of Paul's experience of being caught up into the third heavens. 4. That it is a personal and internal experience, in which certain circumstances suggest temptations which Jesus overcomes only after a bitter struggle. 5. That it is a literal narrative: that Satan really appeared in tangible form to Jesus, and proposed to Him to convert the stones into bread, carried Him bodily to the pinnacle of the Temple, and showed Him, from some high eminence, a view which at least suggested all the Kingdoms of the world. 6. That it describes in dramatic language a real but internal experience, that Satan was really present, whispering the suggestions of evil to the soul of Jesus, as he still

* *The New Testament, with Notes and Comments.* Accompanied with Maps and Illustrations. By the Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT. Vol. I., Matthew and Mark. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.)

* *Daniel Deronda.* Books IV. and V. (Wm. Blackwood and Sons.)

does to us, but unrecognised until the last, the subtlest and worst, of the three temptations.

We have similar "Notes" on the baptism of Jesus by John, on Demoniacal Possession, on the Twelve Apostles—their lives and characters, on the Brethren of the Lord, on the keys given to Peter, on Christ's discourse on the last days, and on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mr. Abbott's discussions on these topics will be found exceedingly helpful. And this may be said of the work at large. It passes by no difficulty. It indulges in no sermonising, but it is morally and spiritually suggestive. And, familiar as we are with recent commentaries on Matthew, such as Mr. Conder's, Mr. Godwin's, and Dr. James Morison's, we think the publishers have done well to transfer Mr. Abbott's to our English soil.

VENEZUELA.*

It is refreshing to come across a book of travels that deals with a comparatively unknown country, and this is just the case with Mr. Dance's book. It is, too, more than a book of travels, although in some respects, as the record of a four years' settlement, it is defective. Mr. Dance can write well and in a lively manner, but it is astonishing how comparatively little he seems to have seen, or to be able to tell. He must have felt this himself, for he has spun out his narrative with an uninteresting theological discussion with a rationalistic German, which will strike most readers as being to some extent, at least, imaginary. However, we are thankful for what he has to tell; for what is told is new, and, the discussion apart, not a little interesting.

Mr. Dance, who was born in the West Indies, was tempted to Venezuela at the time of the Californian gold-fever. There came rumours of the discovery of gold in Venezuela. Gold-seeking, however, had been a failure, but it appeared that farming could be carried on with success. Mr. Dance, therefore, went to farm under the auspices of a Don Gerilleau, Spanish interpreter to the Courts in Trinidad. He says, "I bargained with Gerilleau that for a certain sum of money he would procure me fifty acres of rich land, and assist me to get peons (labourers) to clear what of it would be required at first. We closed at this, and I arranged my affairs in Trinidad, and prepared for the voyage." Arrived there, our settler went three days up the river, where he first met the dwellers of the plains. This is his account of them:—

There is a frank boldness in the Llaneros, or dwellers on the Llanos plains, that one sees sometimes among sailors or soldiers, as, having arrived, and their oxen penned, they advance with their double cobja, or cloak—which, inverted, serves as a red or blue one at pleasure—carelessly thrown over their shoulders, or tied sash-like over one shoulder, crossed to the side: their oxburgh trousers made short to the knees, and their travelling zapatos, or laced boots, each made of one entire piece of leather, leaving an opening before the toes for ventilation and drainage, they salute you with a hearty Buenos dias.

We have, next, some illustrations of dinner up the country and of country superstitions:—

A call to dinner. The master and the wayfarers sit on benches and quaint old-fashioned home-made chairs, to a table covered with a clean cloth, on which rough pottery dishes and plates are placed. The food consists of thinly sliced salted beef, called *tasajo*, and fresh beef from the carcass of a gored ox. Fresh beef is a rarity here. When an ox is gored or too exhausted for shipment, it is sold for the value of the skin, that is, for two or three pesos of eighty cents each; and for that day and the following, fresh beef is plentiful. The meat for dinner is boiled with pumpkins, sweet potatoes and beans, the broth of which, with pepper, is very excellent, and is called *callo*. We have also fried *tasajo* beaten in a mortar, and overlaid with eggs; and plenty of plantains boiled or roasted, cassavae bread and corn bread called *arepa*.

Before dinner I volunteer a grace in simple Spanish words, to which all responded, and the host looks pleased and thankful. He tells me that he knows I am heretic, but believes that I am one whom God possibly intends, in good time, to be reclaimed into the true, holy, Catholic Church. Immediately before dinner, two Indian girls bring in calabashes of water, which answer for finger basins, after which the fingers may freely do the duties of knives and forks.

It rained during dinner time. A middle-aged woman of mixed Indian and Negro blood, who was about to proceed to her home at Wacheracas, a settlement a little below the village of Cana Colorado, was impatient of the rain. She very devoutly prayed to Saint Anthony to cause the rain to cease, as she wanted to starch some clothes. Then, that she might have the credit of exercising patience, I suppose, she continued her conversation, and she was a good talker. But the rain not ceasing, after what she considered a reasonable time for her prayer to reach the saint, she looked up to the clouds, and pointing a finger rather threateningly, called out:—"Por Dios hombre; que es esto, San Antonio! No me escuchas! Cuidado!"—"Oh, dear! Saint Antonio don't you hear me! Man, what is this? Take care!"

Perhaps her threat implied that she would leave him in the dark by not burning a light for him.

Mr. Dance tells us a little of the snakes and

birds that abound—and abound to a marvellous extent—and somewhat of his home life. The Roman Church has long had its hold of the people, and it has taught them about as much as this:—

And almost immediately after, Christobal, who was always chief spokesman, told the following in substance:—

"All souls go to purgatory for a greater or less period, according to their impurity. Some leave their impurities in the fire, and rise up by the force of their remaining goodness to rest with the Virgin in heaven. Others, like bad metal, never get purified, but remain for ever like dross in eternal fires. But some men, from the enormity of their crimes, are not allowed this chance, until they have been punished for ages in other ways. Not too far from Pun Ceres, towards Cumanacoa, is a place of torment for such men, the chief of whom is Lopez el Tirano. The flames ascend continually from the hill in which the souls of these men are confined. Others again are punished by severe cold in those dreary mountain wastes of *Los Andes de Trujillo*, the principal of which are the *Paramos de Volcan* and *Caldera*, the wilderness of volcano, and the wilderness of the caldron.

"But we poor Chaimas, who are not nearly as bad as the Creoles, may hope that we shall be happier than we are here, and have good land, and water, and fish, and game; and be under the immediate protection of the Virgin. Those of us who are poisoners or assassins, must, of course, take their punishment."

"And what will that punishment be?"

"Who knows!" he said; "perhaps they will be changed into wild beasts, and hunted into miserable places."

As for Sundays, they are thought nothing of, excepting as holidays. In fact we see in Venezuela about what is to be seen in the most ignorant districts of Spain and Portugal, with the addition of the peculiar ignorance of Indians and half-castes. Notwithstanding this, we are told that the people bear a favourable comparison morally with any of the French and English Creole populations of the West Indies, although they may be more ignorant of the theory of religious doctrine and less pretentious in their professions of sanctity. Mr. Dance was invited by a Protestant missionary in Trinidad to distribute Protestant tracts amongst these people. He declined to do it on the ground that to "make a worse Protestant of a bad Romanist was no part of his ambition." He gives a description of the great religious "scene":—

The great procession is that of "the stations to Calvary." On this occasion altars are erected in two of the principal streets. Flags and costly cloths are exhibited at the windows of houses, and a great crowd of worshippers and sightseers throng the way. The priest and his staff of singers, with a large number of girls of all ages and well-dressed people of both sexes, followed by a crowd all cleanly clothed, promenade the streets. At each station prayers are said and hymns sung.

A very solemn procession is that for the administration of the viaticum, or the sacrament of the blessed Eucharist (or it may be of extreme unction, for I am not certain), to the dying Christians. In the still time of vespers, the sweet soft voices of pious women, aided by boys, and the rich sonorous tones of the priest and senior choristers of the church, are heard chanting reverentially the awe-inspiring music ascribed to St. Gregory. As they approach you see each female dressed in white, and holding in her hand a lighted lantern. A glance shows you the earnest devout faces going prepared to meet the Bridegroom in the chamber of Death. These ignore Death, for to them it is a new life, a betrothal, an entering into the marriage feast. They are like the virgins going out to meet the Bridegroom, with expressions of chastened joy, their lamps filled, and trimmed, and lighted. Such is not an unlikely first impression on witnessing the night procession to the sick chamber.

Funerals vary in solemn grandeur according to the prices paid to the Church; from the mutterings of the solitary padre preceding a plain mean coffin—a few pesos; to the full vocal orchestra of the church, acolytes in cassock and surplice with smoking censers, and lofty gilt crucifix—for many pesos.

In baptism, not only do the sponsors make gifts to the child, but the friends of the sponsors show their regard for them by bringing gifts also. The parents, for the day, are merely satellites to the sponsors, who, during life, exercise, when they please, an authority over the destiny of their god-child. The deference paid by youths to their god-parents is very remarkable. They kiss their hand, or with crossed arms and bowed heads ask for a blessing, in house, or street, or market. The formality surely carries with it much of the genuine spirit of disciplined obedience and Christian love and duty; and is, as to results, less formal than the uninterested sponsorship of some people in other than Papal churches.

Some Ritualistic processions do not differ much from the one described in the above extract.

Mr. Dance had the pleasure of seeing a rebellion, an earthquake, and of crossing the "Llanos." He gives us capital descriptions of each, and we put down his book only regretting that he has not told us more.

MR. JELF ON RITUALISM, ETC.*

The author of "Quousque"—one of the most timely and vigorous ecclesiastical pamphlets published in recent years—would be sure to command attention for anything that he might write; and this work, published after the author's death, will be read with peculiar

* *Ritualism, Romanism, and the English Reformation.* By the late W. E. JELF, B.D. (Longmans.)

interest. Mr. Jelf belonged to the old High-Church school. He was a fine classical scholar, and a well-read divine. He had an honest, and we may say, a robust antipathy to modern Ritualism, and for years past used his pen with great effect in opposition both to the doctrines and to the practices of the Ritualists. The present work—which has a graceful preface from the pen of his widow—consists of a review of the Liddon and Capel controversy, with the whole of that controversy as it was published in the *Times*, printed in an Appendix. The author assails, with great critical acumen and controversial vigour, the position taken by Dr. Liddon. We do not intend, however, to quote from this part of his work, but there are two passages which have a special value as stating, in a clearer manner than we remember to have seen them stated before, the High-Church reading of the "principles of the Reformation," and a definition of the doctrine of the priesthood. Our readers will forgive the length of this extract:—

It not unfrequently happens that a Mediævalist will sneeringly ask, "What are the Principles of the Reformation? I cannot understand them."

A rapid answer may be given to such a sneer.

The principles of the Reformation are a protest against and the rejection of the Mediæval notions and practices which you are moving heaven and earth to reintroduce into our Church. This is the negative phase.

Positively, the principle of the Reformation is a return to the faith delivered to the saints as we find it in Scripture.

The acceptance of Scripture as the sole rule and foundation of the Christian teaching.

The acceptance of the Primitive Church as alone of any value in determining, or helping us to determine, the doctrine conveyed by any doubtful passage of Scripture; the comparatively speaking rejection of the glosses introduced into the Christian faith by Heathenism, or Judaism, or Scholasticism, or Romanism, pure and simple.

The rejection of such notions of Christian duty or the Christian life as were unknown to early Christianity, but gradually engrafted on the parent stock by the imaginations of so-called pious men, who thought they could improve apostolic teaching and practice.

Particularly the Reformation protested against and rejected—

1. The usurpation of the Church of Rome in claiming to be the Mistress and Guide of all Churches.
2. The usurpation of the Bishop of Rome in claiming to be the Vicar of Christ, the Lord of the World, in things both spiritual and temporal.
3. The temporal power of the Bishop of Rome, as embodied in the words *Sovereign Pontiff*.
4. The doctrine of indulgences.
5. The doctrine of purgatory.
6. Justification by good works.
7. The power and status of the clergy, as a distinct order of Christians, besides and beyond their ministerial office.
8. The power of the priest to forgive sins, *suo arbitrio et potestate*.
9. The doctrine of a real Sacrifice being offered by the priest in the consecration of the elements in the Lord's Supper.
10. The presence of Christ or God in the elements, and the consequent adoration of the elements, and sundry other superstitious usages and observances towards the elements necessarily resulting from this view.
11. The monastic system, as the higher religious Christian life, and as a means of pleasing God more surely than the active discharge of the duties of everyday life.
12. Self-inflicted pains and austerities as means of pleasing God.
13. The subjugation of the female mind, whether in male or female brain, to the influence of the clergy, by means of auricular confession and direction.
14. The substitution of confession to the priest for confession to God.
15. The celibate state as the higher state or mode of life, and more particularly the celibacy of the clergy, as appertaining to their nearer relation to God and their higher sanctity.
16. The use of elaborate and histrionic services in public worship.
17. The worship of the Virgin Mary, or the assigning to her the position of patroness or protectress of the human race; her sovereignty, mediation, intercession, impeccability—the sole mediatrix of Christ.
18. The adoration of images, relics, &c.
19. The exemption of ecclesiastics from the civil power.
20. The talismanic efficacy of assisting or being present at the holy communion without receiving.
21. The undue prominence given to the holy eucharist as an act of ceremonial worship, on the notion of its being a daily sacrifice.

These are the points rejected at the Reformation. These are most of them things which the Mediævalists are trying to re-establish. I do not mean that they are in every case planting them in their developed state, but they are sowing the seeds of them. The enemy did not plant full grown tares.

Concerning the "priesthood" Mr. Jelf writes:—

As a High-Churchman, I always held and still hold a presbyterial (though not a sacerdotal) priesthood, the individual members of which are *presbyteroi*, ministering presbyters (not *lepres*, sacrificing priests), holding a divine commission and exercising a divinely-appointed office. At the same time I do not see that such a conviction need compel me to deny or doubt that God Himself may work, has worked, and does work by other agencies and instruments at His own good pleasure.

The author thinks that the Ritualists will have to leave the Church and become a sort of non-juring body, but hopes that they will re-

* *Recollections of Four Years in Venezuela.* By CHARLES DANIEL DANCE. (H. S. King and Co.)

consider their position. This work will be found extremely valuable for reference.

SHORT NOTICES.

A Concise Law Dictionary. By HERBERT NEWMAN MOZLEY, M.A., Fellow of King's College, Cam., and GEORGE CRISPE WHITELEY, M.A. Cam., barristers-at-law. (London: Butterworths.) This work will supply a want felt by many, as well among law students as the general public, of an explanatory index of legal terms and phrases; complete to the present time, and at the same time moderate in bulk. To such, too, it may be recommended, for its many concise supplementary expositions of the law bearing upon the subject-matter of many of the titles indexed. Particularly there is added to the work, by way of appendix, a short summary of the proceedings in an action in the new High Court of Justice, and of the main provisions of the Judicature Act. This summary will be for the law student a good first lesson in the new Acts, while for the unprofessional reader it will convey in a short, readable, and intelligible form an outline of the amended practice of our courts. We doubt, however, whether many of the practically obsolete words appearing in the compilation, as also such as are not of purely legal signification (for instance, "Koran," "accrue," &c.) might not with advantage yield their space to a larger selection of modern terms. Probably the book would thus gain in "homogeneity" and value. In seeking to inform at once the antiquarian, the law student, and the general public, on what may particularly interest each, more is perhaps lost by inevitable incompleteness, than is gained in any other way.

Short Sermons on the Psalms. By W. J. STRACEY, M.A., Rector of Oxnead and Vicar of Ruxton, Norfolk. (Rivingtons.) These brief sermons—a second series—were preached in a village church. They are brief, evangelical, and always to the point. No one who heard them could be ignorant of either the claims or the character of the Gospel, the rewards of Christian faith, or the duties attached to the Christian profession. We are glad that the "village church" has such preaching, but here and there we feel inclined to take exception to the manner in which the importance of the sacraments is exhibited. Canon Pinder did not say a wise thing or give a sound judgment when he said that in these days "no sermon ought to be without some reference, more or less distinct, to one or both of Christ's holy sacraments." It is a remark that would mislead, and, in some cases, fatally mislead.

Wych Hazel. By the Author of the "Wide Wide World," "Queechy," &c., &c. (James Nisbet and Co.) The author of "Queechy" has in this story gone back to the scenes which created so much interest in her first works. Wych Hazel, after a certain bush, is really the name of a young girl who is heiress to a beautiful place at no great distance from the Catskill Mountains, in the vicinity of which nearly the whole scene lies. There is an immense deal of freshness in description, incident is plentiful, and a piquant characterisation of individuals of several types. Wych Hazel is an orphan, and is under the charge of two guardians who are put to many straits in order to save her from the designing fortune-hunters who seem to abound there as well as in less primitive places. The elderly Mr. Falkirk is admirably presented in various efforts to watch and control his freakish ward, and no doubt his difficulties are greatly added to by the peculiar relations in which his fellow-guardian, Mr. Rollo, quite a young man, stands to the heiress, unknown to her. These are that, when he reaches the age of twenty-five, he shall declare himself ready to become her husband. She, however, is kept ignorant of this, as arranged, but it is untowardly communicated to her by a gossip. Quite in keeping with her character, she no sooner learns this than she sets herself to oppose the scheme, and to make herself disagreeable to Mr. Rollo. There is a vast deal of humour here and there, knowledge of human nature, and smart writing, of which we can hardly afford space to present adequate specimens, but here is the portrait of the heroine:—

A slender little person, as airy and independent as the bush she was named for; one of those figures that never by any chance fall into any attitude or take any part that is not lovely. Hair, as to arrangement, decidedly the worse for the walk; cheeks a little warmed up with the sun, and perhaps other things; grave eyes, where the woman was but beginning to supplant the child; a mouth as sweet as it could be in all its changes; and a hand and foot that were fabulous. We should not omit to say that the volume is so well and neatly got up, that it would furnish a fitting present.

The Poetry of Creation. In Eight Parts. By NICOLAS MICHELL. Fourth and cheap edition. *The Immortals; or, Glimpses of Paradise.* By same author. Third and cheap edition. (Messrs. Tegg and Co.) Of Mr. Michell's poetry we have already given our opinion. These new editions are beautifully got up. They are printed in large clear type, on good paper; and should do much to extend the circle of Mr. Michell's readers.

Sermons. By the Rev. BENJAMIN ARTOM. First series; second edition. (Trübner and Co.) These remarkable sermons, preached by the Chief Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese congregation in England, were reviewed by us when the first edition appeared. We have read them again with fresh interest as the productions of a cultured and catholic adherent to the Jewish faith, and, as we said before, they have well repaid the reading. One remark we must make. Mr. Artom says that Christianity has two doctrines of its own, for the authorship of which Jews will never feel eager—one is proselytism by violence; the second, the eternity of punishment. Does not Mr. Artom know that the former, at least, is not to be found in the Christian Scriptures, and that many candid men doubt as to the latter? The most interesting sermon in this collection is that on the "Messiah."

Two Wedding Rings. A novel. By G. SOMERS BELLAMY. (Charing-cross Publishing Company.) It does not follow, because a man is a good and even superior literary analyst, as Mr. Bellamy proved himself to be in his Shakesperian Dictionary, that he will also prove himself to be a superior novelist. The tale before us is remarkable for nothing except the incident of a false marriage—if that be remarkable. The characters, although extremely well defined, are not extraordinary; the plot is poor; the writing of only an average character. It may amuse an idle hour, but nothing more.

Professor Longfellow has occupied his leisure hours with the collection of poetry associated with places. This compilation will make a new series in the "Little Classics" style, and Messrs. James B. Osgood and Co. promise the two volumes on England and Wales for early issue.

The Neapolitan newspapers report that Professor Mommsen, while consulting various ancient inscriptions in Arpinum, has just discovered the sepulchre of Caius Marius. With some difficulty he succeeded in tracing the letters C. Marius, which, together, with an inscription recording the Roman General's seven consulships, are regarded as leaving no doubt as to the identity of the monument.

At the science conference at South Kensington on Friday Professor Burdon Sanderson gave an account of the means physiologists employed in measuring the proportional number of the red corpuscles of the blood. A cube of blood one twenty-fifth part of an inch was diluted 250 times with serum, which was managed by graduated pipets. A layer of one-fifth part of this was placed under a microscope and 100 corpuscles could be counted in it that gave five millions for a cube of blood one twenty-fifth part of an inch across, or nearly 16,000 times five millions for a cubic inch of blood.

Between half-past nine on Thursday evening and seven o'clock on Friday morning, the oil painting, by Gainsborough, of the Duchess of Devonshire, purchased by Messrs. Agnew at the recent sale of Mr. Wynn-Ellis's collection, at the immense price of 10,100 guineas, was cut from out of its frame and stolen from the room in which it has been on view in Old Bond-street. A reward of 1,000*l.* has been offered for the apprehension of the thief or thieves and the recovery of the picture, but the police do not appear to have the slightest clue on the subject.

The annual meeting of the Council of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union was opened on Tuesday, at Oxford. The report showed that there were 50,000 members of the union, and that the total receipts during the year amounted to £12,600, and that a balance of £2,500 remained on hand. The Rev. S. Attenborough, who presided, said in the course of his address that the union ought to promote such reforms as the disestablishment of the Church, full political rights, the withdrawal of women from agricultural labour, and the education of agricultural labourers' children. The resignation of Mr. H. Taylor, the general secretary, was tendered and accepted, a vote of thanks being accorded to him for his services. On Wednesday the council, after long discussion, adopted a revised rule on strikes and arbitration.

The balance-sheet of the Great Britain Mutual Life Assurance Society, full particulars of which appear elsewhere, shows that the value of the sums assured is about a million sterling.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

BIRTH.

WILLIS.—May 29, at Cleveland House, Eaton, Norwich, Mrs. Colman Willis, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BARTLEET-SMITH.—May 18, at the Baptist Chapel Astwood Bank, by the Rev. — Bloomfield and the Rev. John Phillips, Mr. A. G. Bartleet, to Maria Louisa, fifth daughter of James Smith, Esq., J.P., of Astwood Bank, Worcestershire.

DICKINSON-KAYE.—May 24, at Bockhurst Hill Congregational Church, by the Rev. Marmaduke Miller, assisted by the Rev. W. H. Charlesworth, Jon, son of Benjamin Dickinson, Esq., of Huddersfield, to Louisa, second daughter of John Kaye, Esq., Prospect Hall, Woodford, Essex. This being the first marriage celebrated at this church, the happy pair were presented with a handsome Bible, containing suitable inscriptions.

BROWN-KEEVIL.—May 23, at the Baptist Chapel, Twickenham, by Archibald G. Brown, of the East London Tabernacle, Edward Heath Brown, of 331, Brixton-road, to Mary Joyce Kevvil, of No. 4, Chestow-villas, Twickenham.

McKAY-STONE.—May 23, at the Iron Church, Highbury New-park, by the Rev. H. Allon, D.D., Donald, son of John McKay, of Devonport, to Harriot Mary, daughter of Richard Stone, of Compton-road, Canonbury.

WHITLOW-MILTHORP.—May 23, at Zion Chapel, Wakefield, by the Rev. J. R. Wolstenholme, M.A., John Whitlow, Wakefield to Frances Henrietta, only daughter of Francis Mithorp, Wakefield.

DEATH.

SCOTT.—May 27, at Lancashire College, Whalley Range, Manchester, after twelve years of severe suffering, borne with exemplary patience, Elsie Somerville, eldest daughter of Professor Scott, aged 19. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

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Reversionary Bonus allotted for the five years ended 31st December, 1874 662,104
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The expenses of management (including commissions) are about 4 per cent. on the annual income.

Attention is especially called to the new (revised and reduced) rates of premium recently adopted by the office.

The rates for young lives will be found materially lower than heretofore.

Forms of Proposal, &c., will be sent on application to the Office.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament, 25 and 26 Vic. c. 74.

THE GREAT BRITAIN MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
101, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.**DIRECTORS.**

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W. F. Low, Esq. Jas. Wright, Esq.
G. R. D. Norton, Esq.

VALUATION BALANCE SHEET

(December 31, 1875,) prepared by Mr. W. M. Makeham, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, and Mr. Peter Gray, Honorary Member of the Institute of Actuaries.

LIABILITIES.
To present value of sums assured £918,007 0 0
" annuities 2,957 0 0
" reserve 163,025 12 8

£1,084,019 12 8

ASSETS.

By present value of annual premiums £950,777 0 0
By assurance fund 133,242 12 8

£1,084,019 12 8

The valuation of the outstanding assurances is made at four per cent. by a mortality table framed upon Mr. Morgan's experience of the Equitable Society, with other trustworthy observations. The proportion of the reserve to the value of the future premiums is 17-15 per cent.

WILLIAM M. MAKEHAM, Actuary and Secretary.

SOVEREIGN LIFE OFFICE.

FOUNDED 1845.

LIFE ASSURANCE in every branch.
ADVANCES TO ASSURERS in ENGLAND.
ENDOWMENTS FOR EDUCATION or a GIVEN AGE.

Offices: 48, St. James's Street, S.W.; and 122, Cannon Street, City.

LOMBARDIAN BUILDING SOCIETY,
No. 10.

Monthly subscriptions, 10s.; and first entrance fee, 2s. 6d. each share.

The First adjourned Subscription Meeting was held Tuesday, May 9th, at which the largest number of shares ever subscribed for at the first meeting of any of the previous Lombardian Societies was issued, the total having reached nearly 2,000.

The Directors are now prepared to make advances promptly to any amount upon freehold, leasehold, or copyhold property.

The Second Monthly Subscription Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 13th, at the Guildhall Coffee-house, Gresham-street, from half-past 6 to 8 o'clock.

Persons desirous of obtaining advances or shares at the first entrance fee, should make an early application to the Manager or Secretary, 57, King William-street, City.

The entrance fee will shortly be raised.

BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

DRAFTS ISSUED upon Adelaide and the principal towns in South Australia. Bills negotiated and collected. Money received on deposit at agreed rates. Apply at the offices, 54, Old Broad Street, E.C.

WILLIAM PURDY, General Manager.

LONDON and SOUTHWARK FIRE and LIFE INSURANCE. Chairman, HENRY ASTE, Esq.—Chief Office, 73 and 74, King William-street, E.C.

ONE MILLION STERLING

Has been paid as

COMPENSATION

FOR

DEATH AND INJURIES

Caused by

ACCIDENTS of ALL KINDS,

By the

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,

Hon. A. KINNAIRD, M.P., Chairman.

PAID UP CAPITAL and RESERVE FUND, £180,000.
ANNUAL INCOME, £200,000.

Bonus allowed to Insurers of Five Years' Standing.

Apply to the Clerks at the Railway Stations, the Local Agents, or

64 CORNHILL, and 10, REGENT-STREET, LONDON.

WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

THE NEW WILLCOX & GIBBS

SILENT

SEWING MACHINE,

WITH

AUTOMATIC**TENSION,**

AND OTHER IMPORTANT PATENTED IMPROVEMENTS.

THIS NEW MACHINE IS A TRULY

MARVELLOUS IMPROVEMENT in Sewing Machinery. It does away with the LAST OF THE DIFFICULTIES in using the Sewing Machine, while it also RENDERS CERTAIN the doing of

PERFECT SEWING, even by beginners—PERFECT in SECURITY, PERFECT in BEAUTY, PERFECT in DURABILITY. It leaves nothing to the judgment of the operator beyond the choice of the style of work to be done. After that choice,

ALL IS DONE BY THIS NEW SEWING MACHINE, WHICH IS IN EVERY RESPECT THE MOST PERFECT SEWING MACHINE YET MADE. PERFECT IN DESIGN, PERFECT IN CONSTRUCTION, PERFECT IN FINISH. PERFECTLY ADAPTED TO ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF FAMILY SEWING.

A MONTH'S FREE TRIAL AT HOME,

Carriage paid. Price List post free.

BUY ONLY OF THE COMPANY, OR OF AGENTS WHO PRODUCE CERTIFICATES OF AGENCY FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

WILLCOX & GIBBS SEWING MACHINE CO.

Chief Office for Europe—150, CHEAPSIDE, E.C., } LONDON
West End Branch—135, REGENT STREET, W., }

MANCHESTER—16, CROSS STREET (ROYAL EXCHANGE)

GLASGOW—113, UNION STREET.

BRIGHTON—32, NEW ROAD (facing NORTH STREET)

CANTERBURY—15, MERCERY LANE.

CERTIFIED AGENTS IN ALL TOWNS.

THE BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY'S ANNUAL RECEIPTS EXCEED FOUR MILLIONS.**HOW TO PURCHASE A HOUSE FOR TWO GUINEAS PER MONTH.**

With Immediate Possession and no Rent to pay.—Apply at the Office of the BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

HOW TO PURCHASE A PLOT OF LAND for FIVE SHILLINGS per MONTH.

With Immediate Possession, either for Building or Gardening purposes.—Apply at the Office of the BIRKBECK FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY, 29 and 30, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane.

HOW TO INVEST YOUR MONEY WITH SAFETY.

Apply at the Office of the BIRKBECK BANK, 29 and 30 Southampton buildings, Chancery-lane. All sums under £50 repayable upon demand.

Current Accounts opened, and Interest allowed on the minimum monthly balances. Cheque-books supplied. English and Foreign Stocks and Shares purchased and sold, and Advances made thereon.

Office hours, from 10 to 4; except on Saturdays, when the Bank closes at 2 o'clock. On Mondays the Bank is open until 9 o'clock in the Evening.

A Pamphlet, with full particulars may be had on application

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

PERRY and Co. (Limited), MANUFACTURERS of STEEL PENS and PATENT EVER-POINTED PENCILS. London Warehouses, 37, Red Lion-square, and 3, Cheapside; Steel Pen Manufactory, 36, Lancaster-street; Pencil Works, 22, Graham-street, Birmingham.

PERRY and Co.'s Best Quality J PENS, 1s. 6d. per gross; Perry and Co.'s Raven Black J Pens, 1s. 6d. per gross; Perry and Co.'s Gilt J Pens, 3s. per gross. These Pens are well known for the soft and easy nature of their writing. Sold by all Stationers.

PERRY and Co.'s UNIVERSAL SCHOOL PENS, for Large, Round, or Small Hand—One Shilling per gross. Superior qualities of School Pens, 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. per gross. These Pens are well worth the attention of all Schools, and they can be ordered through any Stationer.

PERRY and Co.'s PATENT ANILINE MARKING INK.—A Shilling's worth of this Ink will mark with a permanent raven black as much linen as any twenty shilling bottles of the old-fashioned marking ink.—Wholesale, 37, Red Lion-square, and 3, Cheapside.

PERRY and Co.'s PATENT COPYING INK PENCIL, for Writing and Copying Letters, without the use of Inkstand, Pen, or Copying Press. 6d. each, or post-free 7d. Box of Leads 6d. each. Sold by Stationers.—Wholesale, 37 Red Lion-square, and 3, Cheapside.

CITY ROYAL PIANOFORTE and HARMONIUM SALOON.—KEITH, PROWSE, and CO., having completed the rebuilding and enlargement of their premises, invite all buyers to inspect their varied STOCK of PIANOFORTES, Harmoniums, and American Organs. Specialties:—New Boudoir Model Pianette, in walnut, full compass, 25 guineas and 27 guineas, the cheapest, strongest, and most elegant pianette yet produced; also their new grand iron oblique, frame of iron, equal in power and richness of tone to a drawing-room grand, price 100 guineas. City Depot for Mason and Hamlin's American Organs, No. 48, Cheapside, 18 guineas to 150 guineas, and for Alexandre's Gold Medal Harmoniums, 4 guineas to 100 guineas.

FLUTES.—The NEW MODEL FLUTE (old fingering), for beauty and volume of tone unsurpassed, 34 guineas and 7 guineas. Also Rudall and Co.'s Prize Medal Flutes, new and second-hand. A great variety of Second-hand Flutes of all fingerings, 1 guinea to 25 guineas.—At KEITH, PROWSE, and Co.'s Manufactory, 48, Cheapside.

MUSICAL BOXES by NICOLE FRERES.—KEITH, PROWSE, and Co., direct Importers, offer parties seeking really fine, well-tuned instruments, a selection of more than 500 boxes, with all the recent improvements, from £4 to £250. Buyers are requested before purchasing to visit the new saloons, especially devoted to the sale of these enchanting instruments, which for quality have no equal.—Musical Box and Self-playing Instrument Depot, No. 43, Cheapside.—Barrel Pianofortes, 10, 13, and 50 guineas.

BANJOES.—The New Cheapside Model is the best machine made, covered back, &c., 5 guineas; other models, 1 to 12 guineas. The new scale for pasting on the fingerboard, 6d., nett. The new Instruction Book, with full directions for learning the Banjo, and a large collection of airs, songs, &c., 6s., nett.—KEITH, PROWSE, and Co., 48, Cheapside Importers of strings from Italy.

UNSOPHISTICATED ALCOHOL.—O. D. V. PURE BRANDY, Twice Rectified, and distilled of all fusel oil.—Peculiarly free from acidity and better adapted to the use of invalids than any other spirit.—Dr. Andrew Ure. "An article of undoubted purity in point of strength and astringent property, it exhibits the qualities of a good brandy."—Dr. Letheby. 38s. per doz. Established 1829. HENRY BRETT and Co., 26 and 27, High Holborn.

BEN RHYDDING HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT and SANATORIUM. Resident Physician: WM. CUBITT LUCEY, M.D.C.M., M.R.C.S. Eng. The extensive alterations and improvements which have been going on at Ben Rhydding are now complete, and the house is perfectly ready for the reception of patients and visitors. Hydro-Therapeutic treatment at Ben Rhydding is aided by pure air, beautiful scenery, recreation of various kinds, and pleasant society. The prospectus affords every information, for which address the Manager, Ben Rhydding, Leeds.

REMOVING or WAREHOUSING FURNITURE, &c., application should be made to the BEDFORD PANTHECON COMPANY (Limited) for their Prospectus. Removals effected by large railway vans. Estimates free. Advances made if required.—Address, Manager, 194, Tottenham-court-road, W.C.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—New Fanciful, Spectacular, and MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, entitled, *Alice's Adventures*; or, the Queen of Hearts and the Missing Tarts, by Mr. George Buckland, adapted, by permission of the author, from Mr. Lewis Carroll's charming fairy story, "*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*." Solos on the Violin by Miss C. A. Brousil; solos on the Zither by Herr Stummvoll.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—New LECTURE: *A Sunbeam, and How to Weigh it.* By Professor GARDNER. Illustrated by unique and interesting experiments. Heineke's Diving Dress and Submarine Lamp. The new Type Writer in operation.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—From England to Philadelphia: new PICTORIAL LECTURE, by Mr. J. L. King. A Trip to the Suez Canal: Dissolving Views and Mechanical Effects, by Mr. B. J. Malden. Marvellous Illusions by M. Horace De Grey. Open from 12 till 5 and 7 till 10. Admission to the whole, 1s.

TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE, renowned for giving immediate relief in Coughs, Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Diarrhoea, Cholera, &c. Price 13d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. A Surgeon writes—"I have found Towle's Chlorodyne to relieve more pain and cause more joy than any other medicine." Also, **TOWLE'S CHLORODYNE JUBUBES** and **LOZENGES**. Towle, 75, Bk. Piccadilly, Manchester, 1s. Packet per Post.

PEPPER'S QUININE and IRON TONIC Purifies and Enriches the Blood.

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PEPPER'S QUININE and IRON TONIC in Scrofula, Wasting Diseases, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Indigestion, Flatulence, Weakness of the Chest, and Respiratory Organs, Ague, Fevers of all kinds.

PEPPER'S QUININE and IRON TONIC thoroughly Recruits and Re-establishes the General Bodily Health.

Is sold by Chemists everywhere, in capuled bottles, 4s. 6d., next size 11s., and in stone jars 22s. each.

DELLAR'S CORN and BUNION PLASTERS. Boxes, 1s. 1d., and 2s. 9d. each. The Corn Plasters are a certain cure for hard or soft corns; the Bunion Plasters a proved remedy for bunions and enlarged toe joints. Sold by all Chemists.

CRACROFT'S ARECA NUT TOOTH PASTE.—By using this delicious Aromatic Dentifrice, the enamel of the teeth becomes white, sound, and polished like ivory. It is exceedingly fragrant, and specially useful for removing incrustations of tartar on neglected teeth. Sold by all Chemists. Pots, 1s. and 2s. 6d. each. (Get Cracroft's.)

DEAFNESS, NOISES IN THE EARS, &c.—**DELLAR'S ESSENCE for DEAFNESS** has proved an extraordinary remedy. It always relieves, generally cures, and is strongly recommended by thousands who have derived benefit. It is quite harmless. Sold in bottles, 1s. 1d., and 2s. 9d. each, by all Chemists.

LOCKYER'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER will completely restore in a few days grey hair to its original colour without injury. It effects its object satisfactorily, producing a perfectly natural colour; thoroughly cleanses the head from scurf, and causes the growth of new hair. Sold everywhere by Chemists and Hairdressers in large bottles at 1s. 6d. each.

PEPPER'S WHITE COUGH MIXTURE is the most reliable, speedy, and agreeable Cure for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, and all diseases of the lungs and air passages. Is soothing and comforting in its action, and quite different from ordinary cough remedies. Bottles, 1s. 1d. and 2s. 9d. All Chemists.

CROSBY'S BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR.

Opiates, Narcotics, and Squills are too often invoked to give relief in Coughs, Colds, and all Pulmonary Diseases. Instead of such fallacious remedies, which yield momentary relief at the expense of enfeebling the digestive organs, and thus increasing that debility which lies at the root of the malady, modern science points to **CROSBY'S BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR** as the true remedy.

DR. ROOKE'S TESTIMONIAL.

Dr. Rooke, Scarborough, author of the "*Anti-Lancet*," says:—"I have repeatedly observed how very rapidly and invariably it subdued Cough, Pain, and Irritation of the Chest in cases of Pulmonary Consumption, and I can, with the greatest confidence, recommend it as a most valuable adjunct to an otherwise strengthening treatment for this disease."

This medicine, which is free from opium and squills, not only allays the local irritation, but improves digestion and strengthens the constitution. Hence it is used with the most signal success in Asthma, Bronchitis, Consumption, Coughs, Influenza, Night Sweats of Consumption, Quinsy, and all affections of the throat and chest.

Sold in bottles at 1s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each, by all respectable chemists, and wholesale by Jas. M. Crosby, Chemist, Scarborough.

* Invalids should read Crosby's *Prius Treatise on "Diseases of the Lungs and Air Vessels,"* a copy of which can be had gratis of all Chemists.

DR. ROOKE'S ORIENTAL PILLS AND SOLAR ELIXIR.

These well-known family medicines have had a continually increasing sale throughout the United Kingdom and the British Colonies since their first introduction in 1836, and are especially noted for their strengthening and restorative properties. Hence their invariable success in the relief and cure of Indigestion, Liver Complaints, Asthma and Bronchitis, Pulmonary Consumption, Rheumatism, Gout, Scrofula, General Debility, and all Diseases of the Nervous System, whether arising from sedentary mode of life, unhealthy occupation, insalubrious climate, or other cause whatsoever.

The Oriental Pills are sold in boxes at 1s. 1d. and 4s. 1d. each. The Solar Elixir in bottles at 4s. 6d. and 11s. each. Both to be obtained of all Chemists.

"DR. ROOKE'S ANTI-LANCET."

All who wish to preserve health and thus prolong life should read Dr. Rooke's "*Anti-Lancet*," or "*Haughty Guide to Domestic Medicine*," which can be had gratis from any chemist, or post free from Dr. Rooke, Scarborough. Concerning this book, the late eminent author Sheridan Knowles observed:—"It will be an incalculable boon to every person who can read and think."

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Harmoniums,

Musical Instruments of all kinds.

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On equal terms with any London Firm

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DAWES' PATENT MELODY HARMONIUMS.

(The best substitute for the Organ.)

As supplied to Her Majesty and H.R.H. the Princess Louise.

These fine-toned Instruments are now manufactured in Germany. They possess a clear and distinct additional melody in the Treble, also a Sub-Bass or Pedal note in addition to the chords usually played. The Oak Instruments are specially toned and constructed for Places of Worship.

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HALF-HOUR BEDROOM CANDLES.

Boxes containing 60 for 1s., or 11s. the doz. boxes. Prevent accidents by fire or reading in bed, limit school pupils and others to the time they sit up. No sparks emitted or snuffing required.

Sconces suit every candlestick. Metal, 4d.; tin, 2d.

Schools remitting 10s. with order, 12 boxes will be sent, and sconces they require half the price quoted.

WHITMORE and CRADDOCK, 16, Bishopsgate-street, London.

KAYE'S WORSDELL'S PILLS.

The approach of spring indicates the necessity of medicine to purify the blood and strengthen the system against the effects of change of weather and the advent of summer. **KAYE'S WORSDELL'S PILLS** being composed of vegetable matter, chiefly acting on the fluids, will be found the best spring medicine that can be used. The experience of more than fifty years bears out the truth of this assertion.

Sold by all Chemists and other Dealers in Patent Medicines, at 1s. 1d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. per box.

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BY HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

WHITE'S MOC-MAIN PATENT LEVER TRUSS, requiring no steel spring round the body, is recommended for the following peculiarities and advantages:—1st. Facility of application; 2nd. Perfect freedom from liability to chafe or excoriate; 3rd. It may be worn with equal comfort in any position of the body, by night or day; 4th. It admits of every kind of exercise without the slightest inconvenience to the wearer, and is perfectly concealed from observation.

"We do not hesitate to give to this invention our unqualified approbation; and we strenuously advise the use of it to all those who stand in need of that protection, which they cannot so fully, nor with the same comfort, obtain from any other apparatus or truss as from that which we have the highest satisfaction in thus recommending."—*Church and State Gazette*.

Recommended by the following eminent Surgeons:—Sir William Ferguson, Bart., F.R.S., Professor of Surgery at King's College, Surgeon to King's College Hospital, &c.; C. G. Guthrie, Esq., Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital; W. Bowman, Esq., F.R.S., Assistant-Surgeon to King's College Hospital; T. Callaway, Esq., Senior Assistant-Surgeon to Guy's Hospital; W. Coulson, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon to the Magdalen Hospital; T. Blizard Culling, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Hospital; W. J. Fisher, Esq., Surgeon-in-Chief to the Metropolitan Police Force; Aston Key, Esq., Surgeon to Prince Albert; Robert Liston, Esq., F.R.S.; James Luke, Esq., Surgeon to the London Truss Society; Erasmus Wilson, Esq., F.R.S.; and many others.

A Descriptive Circular may be had by post, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) can be forwarded by post, on sending the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, to the Manufacturer.

Mr. WHITE, 228, PICCADILLY, LONDON.

Price of a Single Truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.

Postage, free.

Price of a Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.

Postage, free.

Price of an Umbilical Truss, 42s. and 52s. Postage, free.

Post Office Orders to be made payable to John White, Post Office, Piccadilly.

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ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c.

The material of which these are made is recommended by the Faculty as being peculiarly elastic and compressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and permanent support in all cases of WEAKNESS and swelling of the LEGS, VARICOSE VEINS, SPRAINS, &c. It is porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 10s., and 16s. each. Postage, free.

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Electro Plate, Britannia Metal Goods, Dish Covers, Hot Water Dishes, Stoves and Fenders, Marble Chimney Pieces, Kitchen Ranges, Lamps, Gasaliers, Tea Trays, Urns, and Kettles, Table Cutlery, Clocks and Candelabra, Baths and Toilet Ware, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding and Bed Hangings, Bedroom Cabinet Furniture, Dining-room Furniture, Drawing-room Furniture, Chimney and Pier Glasses, Turnery Goods, Kitchen Utensils, &c.

With List of Prices, and Plans of the thirty large Show-rooms, at 39, Oxford-street, W.; 1, 1A, 2, 3, and 4, Newman-street; 4, 5, and 6, Perry's-place; and 1, Newman-yard, W.C.

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The blades are all of the finest Steel.	Table Knives.	Dessert Knives.	Carvers per Pair.
Per dozen.	s.	s.	s. d.
34-inch ivory handles.....	16	11	7
34-inch do. balance do.	20	15	7
34-inch do. do.	28	22	8
4-inch fine do. do.	33	27	10 6
4-inch extra large do.	39	30	10 6
4-inch African ivory do.	45	35	14 6
Ditto, with silver ferrules	45	35	17
Ditto, with silver blades	52	40	18
Nickel electro silvd. handles...	23	19	7 6

BEDSTEADS, BATHS, AND LAMPS.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has Twelve Large Show-rooms devoted exclusively to the separate display of Lamps, Baths, and Bedsteads. The stock of each is at once the largest, newest, and most varied ever submitted to the public. Bedsteads from 12s. to £20 each. Baths from 7s. 3d. to £22 10s. each. Lamps (Moderateur), from 8s. to £14 each. (All other kinds at the same rate).

Pure Colza Oil 3s. 1d. per gallon

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.

—The REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced more than thirty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when Plated by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is the best article next to silver that can be used as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no test can it be distinguished from real silver.

Patterns.	Fiddle or Old Silv'r	Bead or Thread.	King's or Shell.
Per dozen.	£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Table Forks or Spoons	1 10	2 1	2 5
Dessert do. do.	1 2	1 9	1 11
Tea Spoons do.	14	1 0	1 2

These are as strongly plated, and in every respect equal to what other houses are selling as their first quality at very much higher prices.

A Second Quality of Fiddle Pattern—Table Spoons and Forks, 23s. per doz.; Dessert, 17s. per doz.; Tea Spoons, 12s. per doz.

Tea and Coffee Sets from £3 15s. to £25; Dish Covers from £9 to £24 the set of four; Corner Dishes from £7 10s. to £18 18s. the set of four; Warmers, £7 2s. 6d. to £15 15s.; Biscuit Boxes, 14s. to £5 10s.; Cruet and Liquor Frames, &c., at proportionate prices.

The largest stock in existence of plated Dessert Knives and Forks and Fish-eating Knives and Forks and Carvers.

All kinds of Replating done by the Patent Process.

The cost of delivering goods to the most distant parts of the United Kingdom by railway is trifling. William S. Burton will always undertake delivery at a small fixed rate.

EXCELSIOR GAS BATH, £5 10s. 0d. Eclipse Gas Range, with open fire, registered. Sole maker, G. SHREWSBURY, 59, Old Bailey, E.C. Factory, 98, Barrington-road S.W.

FIVE PRIZE MEDALS AWARDED TO

GOODALL'S WORLD-RENOWNED HOUSEHOLD SPECIALITIES.

GOODALL'S BAKING POWDER, The Best in the World. 1d. Packets; 6d., 1s., and 2s. Tins.

YORKSHIRE RELISH, The Most DELICIOUS SAUCE in the World. Bottles, 6d., 1s., and 2s. each.

GOODALL'S QUININE WINE, The BEST TONIC yet introduced. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 1d., 2s., and 3s. 3d. each.

Sold by Grocers, Chemists, Oilmen, &c.

Prepared by **GOODALL, BACKHOUSE and CO., Leeds.**

DR. HASSALL'S FOOD, for INFANTS, CHILDREN, and INVALIDS.

Dr. ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D., the Inventor, recommends this as the BEST and MOST NOURISHING of all INFANTS' and INVALIDS' FOODS which have hitherto been brought before the Public; it contains EVERY REQUISITE for the full and healthy support and development of the body, and is to a considerable extent SELF-DIGESTIVE. Recommended by the "*Lancet*" and Medical Faculty, &c. Sold by Druggists, Grocers, Oilmen, &c., in Tins, 6d., 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., 6s., 15s., and 28s. each.

A Short Treatise by Arthur Hassall, M.D. Lond., on the "Alimentation of Infants, Children, and Invalids, with Hints on the General Management of Children, sent post free on application to the Manufacturers,

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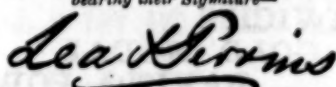
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